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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

We are destined, it seems, to have the existing Ministry for some time longer; nor do we very much complain. It is not a great Government. If we except Lord Palmerston, it is not even a respectable one. But, while parties are in a state of chaos, rule will be with the dexterous man. Palmerston is strong, but strong only compared with parties which are weak. He may well stand till a new coalition comes, or a new great question divides the country; and, meanwhile, it is really of no great importance what Ministry is in. This curious truth seems pretty generally felt now; and, apart from people personally interested, not one Englishman in six cares much who is Premier. As long as he is a respectable old stager, bred to the business, the country is satisfied. We are now in the lull after the war, too; and Palmerston having held on so long, how prove, conclusively, that we should have done so well under anybody else? In truth, we feel little call to discuss rumours, or counter-rumours, about changes of Ministry. Now and again, it is all very well; but, for the most part, it is more profitable to treat of those general questions which—if the public be induced to take sufficient interest in them—will ultimately be settled by public opinion, acting as well on one Ministry as on another.

Of foreign questions, the American one is far the most immediately important. It has been put off too long; and we have seen American papers asserting that if not settled on "this side" soon, it will be settled on the other! This is a specimen of the kind of feeling which the difficulty has given rise to, and the prolonged existence of which is mischievous to both countries. We have recently done every justice to our Government on both the questions in dispute—the "Enlistment" and the "Central American" ones. The first is the least dangerous, because it involves fewer chances of permanent irritation. Say that we prove Hertz and Strobel liars; that we show beyond doubt that we discontinued recruiting even before remonstrances came, and after it had been tried only three months; that we did our best not to break the law; and that if we broke it inadvertently, we have long apologised. We do not believe that in the teeth of all this, American Ministers could hope to get support at home, in demanding the recall of Mr. Crampton. Further, the Enlistment question is comparatively a question between two cabinets—an affair of the day—an affair which sprang out of a war now concluded. But the Central American question is worse. The region to which it relates is of vast American importance with regard to California. The Americans are very sensitive in matters of territory (more so, we fancy, than in points of mere dignity), and are possessed with a notion (almost superstitious) regarding the spread of their rule on their own continent. A whole treaty is ripped up again, and its points have to be argued *de novo*. We must necessarily—unless we choose to withdraw all pretensions there—jar with them occasionally, on the spot, at future times. While, to crown all, a Filibuster is filling the region, about which we are disputing, with fire and blood. What, if some British vessel in these seas come in hostile contact with Walker, by intercepting troops, or provisions,

or in any other way? The States Government does not recognise him. But we may depend that such an event would create a worse flame than we have had yet. It is therefore on this point that the dangers of the Western question (as, in contradistinction to the "Eastern" one, it may be called) arise; and we cannot but think that to arrange their relations about Central America, will be a delicate, difficult, and long task for the two nations.

Public opinion in this country is not hostile to America; on the contrary, taken in the mass, it is favourable to it—and this allowing for the sneering tone about that Republic, which is thought *bon ton* by spurious aristocrats. But, perhaps, the present period, by an evil

generally much exaggerate the traditions of their frigate actions with us during the war. As a set-off on each side, we have, in England, the immense opposition that would be made to hostilities by the Liberal party, and the present Conservative regard for peace, from a different point of view; while, in America, we have the internal difficulties—such as the Kansas one—mostly arising from the Slavery question, and the consciousness that must prevail of comparative military and naval weakness.

We do not think that it is either good taste or good policy for journals to discuss how such a thing as an American war should be conducted; while everybody's energy should rather be directed to the question how it can be averted. We will put up with everything, it is to be hoped, but direct and premeditated insult—even to inquiring whether our Central American claims are worth sticking to, if the Yankees can show that the turn of events makes the region of a thousand times more importance to them than to us. The generous policy is also the great policy; and it is probable that most Englishmen would be unwilling to come to blows with men of their own race and tongue, for the right of protecting the King of Mosquito, or for an island, worth twopence, on a coast of which, until they had to shed their blood about it, they had never heard. The Russian war involved the Turkish empire, Constantinople, the rule of the Mediterranean, and the future of Europe. It was not only a war of high politics, but of high principles—a war of free and civilised peoples against an enthralled and barbarous one. But were we to fight with America, we should be engaging in an unnatural war for indefinite or obscure or petty objects, it would produce miseries altogether disproportionate to any possible results; and if we triumphed at last (after enormous sacrifices), we should still only be protecting the King of Mosquito. We do not want to slight that potentate, but the honour of his alliance would be dearly purchased by the offer of a hecatomb to Beelzebub and Bomba.

To change the subject, important as it is, for another one, are we to have a series of Sunday riots this summer? Do respectable people understand what these things mean? That we have a teeming, ill-fed, ill-bred, half-savage population about us; neglected in the general scramble for money, places, or pleasures—and threatening the safety and the peace of this capital? How they live and die; what they think or believe; what they are like, or where they "squat," curious inquirers have to learn from books as

coincidence, is not the best for this controversy. We are just out of a great war, and have not yet cooled. We have assembled a great army, which was stopped in its career; and a great fleet, which has had no career at all. At no time are we willing to put up with slights, such as would be the dismissal of Crampton, or a refusal to submit our Central American claims to arbitration; and, least of all, are we likely to submit to indignities, when we are all apparently convinced that we were never so powerful by land or sea before. On the other hand, there is a strong anti-British feeling scattered over the Union, among individuals more energetic than respectable, but not without influence; and we fear, into the bargain, that the Yankees

would learn about the Damaras or Ovambo of South Africa. Their condition is less known to most scholars than that of the ancient slaves, about whom we have excellent special treatises. We occasionally study them in Mayhew or a Blue-book; or a parson returns from an expedition, and reports on his success in his missions to them. But every now and then they come to the surface in appalling shapes, and chiefly, it would appear, when what little amusement they can get is interfered with. The more frequently such scenes occur, the more dangerous they are—especially when we remember how many men are ready to turn them to political account. It would be a useful question for Exeter Hall to determine, which is more dan-



THE TARTAR EXODUS FROM THE CRIMEA—TARTAR WOMEN

gerous—Sunday recreation or Sunday riots. It is fast coming to be a choice between the two; for, while the poor are coerced everywhere in their amusements, we cannot see that they are becoming improved anywhere in their religious condition. Now, assuming that it would be better for England that Sunday should be kept holy (in the Exeter Hall sense), how will that be attained by measures which tend to make the masses discontented, sullen, privately debauched, and publicly riotous? Of course, we do not address arguments to such poor creatures as are hired to go about the suburbs on Sundays and pester ginger-beer men—giving opportunities for scandalous irreverence, to the joy of the mob; but, as Exeter Hall influences many of the instructed, sober-minded, and “conservative” classes generally, we should like these to consider what they are doing by provoking public discontent. It is an odd spectacle to see professedly pious men doing all they can to make the people hate Sunday! It is odd, we say, and it is very melancholy likewise. And here we may note, that it is quite a mistake to suppose this rigid Sabbatarianism part of the creed of the English Church; it is distasteful to many of the most accomplished and enlightened clergymen of this day. Will Exeter Hall never learn, that what is not strictly holy is not therefore necessarily un-holy? and that the humanity of man deserves some consideration, as well as his spiritual part?

These topics are perhaps the most generally interesting to the great mass at the present period; but we are much mistaken if the coming “rejoicings” be not in some degree dulled by an altogether different topic—which is not so widely talked of as it ought to be—the war by Russia against the Circassians, which is to occupy the summer. There is surely something humiliating in the idea, that, in spite of our affecting to “neutralise” the Black Sea, its east coast should be left, for upwards of 200 miles, at Russia’s convenience, with its forts undestroyed; so that while our festal blazes are glowing, a blockade is being planned for the destruction of a noble and gallant people, and for the extension of Russian power and authority in Asia! But our rulers have evidently had enough of war, and of the activity and anxiety which it demands of them. No wonder, then, that in spite of this painful evidence of the sincerity of Russia’s peaceful inclinations—in spite of the generally ominous state of Europe—they should be bringing home soldiers, and preparing to disband militia, with a haste, and a stiguiness in money matters, which are exciting the complaints of soldiers far and near.

THE TARTAR EXODUS FROM THE CRIMEA.

Few of our readers, we believe, will fail to sympathise with those unfortunate Tartars, whom a dread of Russian vengeance has driven, as exiles, from their homes in Blouk, Miskimia, Varnutka, Baidar, Upu, Ozemliah, and Tchuluu, to which their fathers came as conquerors. No doubt, the 1st of May, 1856, will long be memorable in Crimean annals; for, on that day, the whole population in the valleys outside the Russian lines began their mournful procession. They left their homes silently. The old men, women, and children were placed on the arabas, above the pile of cushions which seem to constitute all their household furniture. Many of them wept bitterly. Several of these poor pilgrims were so exhausted from illness or old age, that there was little chance of their ever reaching the land they seek to gain. Each araba was drawn by two small bullocks or oxen, led by the head of the family; the elder children—and children more lively or handsome could nowhere be seen—kept by his side, or followed on foot. The procession was about a mile in length, and was formed of arabas in single file, as close to each other as they could pack. The head of the train was drawn up by the water’s edge in the harbour, and the extremity extended far beyond the limits of the town of Balaklava. As there were no houses for their reception, men, women, and children slept in the streets and on the hill sides, under their arabas. In the morning they found that the Turkish Colonel who superintended the emigration, and who was evidently unprepared for its magnitude, had only one small vessel ready for them. However, he succeeded in hiring two small Turkish sailing vessels in addition, and the women and children were sent on board till these ships were full. The women, most of whom were closely veiled, looked around with wonder at the marvels which Balaklava presented, and were for a time beguiled from thoughts of their abandoned dwellings; but as the sea opened upon them, and they found themselves among strangers, the sense of their position came back to them with redoubled force, and they seemed lost in despair. The young women are graceful in form, and are believed to be very pretty, but they are not often seen unveiled, and the old women do not display the least traces of beauty. They have all fine teeth and eyes. Many of the men are very well-looking, and the old men are exceedingly dignified in aspect, possess great native ease and good breeding, and are a docile, kind-hearted, gentle race.

No fewer than fifteen hundred families are stated to be ready for emigration, and they assert that all the Tartars in the Crimea would follow their example if they could. It is rumoured that they are going to colonise the unwholesome Dobrukscha, or to settle at Hutschuk and Kostendje. To such a plain of circumstances, and “the changes that fleeting time procureth,” brought one of the conquering races of the world!

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, of Austria, has authority to offer the French Emperor the restoration of the remains of the Duc de Reichstadt. The bones of the son of Napoleon will be conveyed to France with great pomp. The Archduke Maximilian will not, however, prolong his stay in Paris. According to letters from Paris, the Archduke will go on to Brussels and the Hague in about ten days; at the latter place he is expected on the 4th of June. His visit to Holland is said to have reference to matters that are to come before the German Diet, in which Austria desires the assistance of the King of Holland’s votes as Grand Duke of Limbourg and Luxembourg.

The continued rise of all the rivers in the centre and south of France, has occasioned great devastation. It appears, however, that the waters have reached their height, and are in many places beginning to subside, although slowly.

Prince Oscar, of Sweden, arrived in Paris on Monday afternoon.

The “Moniteur” announces that Baron de Brunow has presented to the Emperor a letter from the Emperor of Russia, which accredits him on an “extraordinary mission” to his Imperial Majesty.

The steam-corvette, the *Reine Hortense*, has been placed at the orders of Prince Napoleon, for a voyage of scientific exploration in the North Sea, which will extend as far as Spitzberg. The *Reine Hortense* is to receive the Prince on board at Cherbourg.

SPAIN.

A COMMITTEE of the Cortes waited on the King to congratulate him on the anniversary of his birthday. In reply to their address the Queen returned thanks in her own name and in that of her royal husband, and expressed a “sincere wish that the labours of the Cortes would constitute an additional tie between her throne and the generous Spanish nation.” The King also expressed his gratitude in a few words. Barbes, the French Red Republican, has been sent to Cadiz, and is under strict surveillance.

AUSTRIA.

A VIENNA correspondent of the “Post Ampt Gazette” confidently affirms that the Cabinet of Vienna has addressed a circular to its diplomatic agents in Italy, in which it states that on no account will either Austria or France permit anarchical movements in Italy; but they are well disposed to exert their influence with the Italian Governments to lead them to reforms in conformity with the spirit of the age. It is reported

that the Cabinet of the Tuileries has despatched a similar circular to its agents in Italy.

RUSSIA.

THE coronation of the Emperor Alexander is fixed for the 24th of August. It will be in conformity with the preceding ceremonies of the same nature. The Czar is to arrive at Warsaw on the 22nd, and Prince Gortschakoff will precede him by a day.

We may expect to hear of important movements of the Russians against the Circassians. The Czar’s army has orders to occupy its old positions as early as possible, and not to spare the enemy.

The following are the principal changes which are taken place in the Russian diplomatic body, in consequence of the establishment of peace:—Count de Crepovitch is nominated ambassador at London; Baron de Boutenief, ambassador at Constantinople; Baron de Budber passes from Berlin to Vienna; and Baron de Brunow is named ambassador to the Prussian Court.

On Sunday, April 8, thanksgivings for the return of peace were offered up in all the churches of Odessa. The great authorities, military and civil, attended at the cathedral, where a “Te Deum” was chanted. The bells of the churches rang all day without intermission.

The works on the fortifications of Revel still continue.

ITALY.

A REPORT having been lately current that the Piedmontese Government had been invited to resume negotiations with the Holy See, Count de Cavour has contradicted the rumour.

Great rejoicings have been held at Turin, in celebration of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Sardinian Constitution. Count Stackelberg, the envoy sent from the Russian Court to make the formal announcement of the Czar’s accession, took part in the fêtes.

The fierce attacks which the Sardinian Minister-President has recently made on Austria, have caused a great ferment in Northern and Central Italy; but, still, it is not apprehended that there will be any outbreak in the Austro-Italian provinces.

Some of the most influential men in Rome have signed an address to Count Cavour, expressing gratitude for his manly support of their interests, praising his statesmanlike foresight, and declaring the intention of those who send it to have a medal struck which may serve as a memorial of his labours to future ages. They beg the Count’s pardon for sending it anonymously, as he must be well aware that in the present state of their country they dare not make their names public.

The King of Naples is preparing a written justification of his policy, to be issued in the form of a letter to the Austrian Government.

The refusal of the Grand Duke of Tuscany to conclude a new concordat with the Pope, is reviving his popularity at Florence.

The news from Parma is very scanty, but assassination is as frequent now as it was before the duchy was declared to be in a state of siege.

Orders have been given to resume recruiting for the two foreign regiments in the service of the Holy See, and to increase the effective of the native troops. The two foreign regiments at present consist of 4,500 to 5,000 men. The “Univers,” announcing this fact, remarks:—“When, instead of 5,000 men, 10,000 or 12,000, presenting the same guarantees, shall have been united under the standard of the Holy See, the question on which the Congress of Paris fixed its attention will be very nearly solved, and the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome, and the Austrian from the Legations, may be thought of.”

The weather in Italy has been most extraordinary, resembling more that of December than May. Two French liners, *en route* from Marseilles, have been disabled, and a considerable quantity of grain has been destroyed.

GREECE.

A FEW days ago some brigands entered Thebes, and seized seven of the inhabitants, but only carried off three of the most wealthy. On the frontiers another band of eighty brigands attacked a village, and sacked every house. A general terror reigns throughout the districts scoured by these outlaws.

The observations of Lord Palmerston on the condition of Greece are not yet forgotten, and continue to irritate the Court and the Russian party. The other day the agents of the Camarilla were employed to get up a representation of his Lordship, and burn him in effigy. Accordingly, a figure dressed in a long red robe, and bearing on its breast, in large letters, the word “PALMERSTON,” appeared suddenly at Pionia, a faubourg of the city of Nauplia, in Argolia, where it was publicly burnt.

Important despatches are expected from London and Paris, and the English and French troops are not likely to leave. It is reported at Athens, that France and England will demand repayment of the loan if things go on as they are, and there is no change of Ministers. In that case, they will certainly receive a refusal, and that may bring affairs to a wholesome crisis.

TURKEY AND CIRCOSSIA.

A LETTER from Constantinople, in the “Gazette du Midi,” says:—“The case of the Circassian deputation here is very likely to lead to error in France and England. The Circassians who are now here are quite distinct from those under the lead of Schamyl. The former come from the north of the Caucasus, and might have molested the Russians in that direction, but could not have operated in Mingrelia. As to Schamyl and his policy, it is very evident that he has done nothing whatever. When the Russian princesses who were in captivity with him were liberated, the Russians in return restored to Schamyl his eldest son, who had been brought up in the Russian army; and that son has ever since in a manner governed for Schamyl. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Turks derived no aid from the redoubted Circassian chief last year.”

The Russians have attacked and burned down the Circassian village of Sunnech, and taken twenty-one prisoners.

Energetic measures of repression have been adopted against the fanaticism of Turkish provinces. The Davoted Paeha Barracks have been burnt. Great numbers of the Turkish troops have returned to Constantinople. The militia has been disbanded.

By a treaty concluded between the Sultan and the Western Powers, the period within which the evacuation of the Turkish territory was to have been completed has been prolonged. The prolongation is said to be six months from the present time.

AMERICA.

CENTRAL AMERICA is the absorbing topic at Washington. In the Senate, Mr. Weller had offered a resolution calling on the President for all correspondence regarding the recognition of the new Government of Nicaragua. Mr. Weller said that no man had been more shamefully misrepresented than General Walker. He was not a freebooter, but a man of the purest motives.

The Washington correspondent of the “New York Herald” states, on the authority of a distinguished functionary of the Government, that General Walker would be recognised. He adds under date of the 5th inst.:

“The Cabinet were called together at an early hour this morning, and had a very protracted and excited session. The subject before them was Central America, or rather whether the Administration are ready to recognise General Walker’s Government, and to receive as Minister, Madro Vegilly, who arrived here this morning. Messrs. Marcy and Cushing opposed its recognition for the present, until something more definite could be ascertained, while Pierce, Davis, and other members were for immediate recognition and action. Nothing definite is known as yet, but it is generally believed that Marcy will be overruled.”

LETTERS FROM JERUSALEM of the 15th April state that a terrible hurricane had raged for three days over that city, and had seriously injured the great dome of the temple.

THE DANUBE.—On the 27th of April, which is Easter Sunday according to the Greek calendar, an event occurred at Sulina which has given rise to some commentaries. The Russians hoisted their national flag with two Greek crosses attached to it, on a small tower near the temporary church which they have constructed. The commander of the Austrian war steamer stationed there sent to say, that if the flag was displayed for the holiday, those of Turkey, Austria, and their allies ought to be added to it. The Russians refused to hoist the flags in question, and the commander, thinking this refusal a demonstration which he ought not to tolerate, sent a detachment of soldiers to display the flags of all the Allies. This they did without meeting with any resistance, though the population had been assembled with the evident intention of opposing it.

THE SUBMERGED RUSSIAN FLEET.

THE aspect of the harbour of Sebastopol is most desolate; the wrecks of the ships and the stumps of masts peering above the waters, give it an aspect of solitude which the boats drifting about cannot destroy. Here is the grave of the Russian Black Sea fleet. In one line from Fort Constantine the Quarantine and Alexander Forts were sunk, three 84s, then one 120, then two 84s, and then one 54. Inside this line was a strong boom, which would have brought up any vessels that had succeeded in bursting through the sunken ships. The second boom, consisting of chain cables floated by timber, extended from Fort Nicholas on the south to the west of St. Michael’s Fort on the north. Inside this boom were sunk, commencing from the north side, a 60 gun ship, an 84, a 120, an 84, and a 60-gun frigate. Then come the bridge of boats, from Fort Nicholas to St. Michael’s. Inside that, in two lines, lie the rest of the Russian fleet. The first is formed of three 84s, a 120, and a 110-gun line-of-battle ship. The second consists of a seven-gun steamer, a six-gun, a 13-gun ditto, and an 84, close to the ruins of Fort Paul. Nearer to Inkermann, in the creeks and bays on the north side, are several sunken steamers, and five brig-of-war and corvettes, and a schooner yacht sunk or aground. The boats of the men-of-war are safe in one of the creeks which runs could not reach. The famous *Twelve Apostles*, the *Three Godheads*, the *Tekesse*, the *Wladislaw*, and the *Empress Maria*, are said to have been unsanctarily before they were sunk, and the only ship for which the Russians express any sorrow is the *Grand Duke Constantine*, 120, the finest ship in their navy.

IRELAND.

A dreadful accident occurred on Monday morning, on board the *Nimrod* steamer, from Liverpool, just as she arrived at the Quay, Cork. As she was swinging round, an explosion was heard on deck, and a dense cloud of smoke was seen to issue from the engine-room. The boiler had burst; and six men were all so mortally injured that they soon after expired.

The Crown, in compliance with a memorial signed by creditors of the late John Sadleir, representing debts to the extent of £250,000, has agreed to appoint Mr. Anthony Norris, of Bedford Row, London, as administrator for collecting the assets of the deceased.

Mr. Donnelly, the Irish Registrar-General, has addressed a circular to the constabulary officers throughout Ireland, in reference to the collection of agricultural statistics for this year. The inquiries commence on the 2nd of June, and the returns are to be made by the 10th of July at the latest.

Mr. J. M. Knighting has been fully committed to take his trial on the eight charges of forgery which have been preferred against him.

The execution of Dunne and Murphy for the murder of Miss Hinds, took place on Friday, and, although there was a large assemblage of persons to witness it, there was not anything like the crowds that usually congregate on such occasions.

A strong popular desire exists in Clare to return Mr. Smith O’Brien to Parliament at the first opportunity.

In the case of the Tipperary Bank, Mr. Scully and Mr. Wilson Kennedy had applied, with others, to be exempted from liability; both these gentlemen were directors. Master Murphy has however decided that their names must remain in the official managers’ list, as liable to the creditors. It is understood that there will be an appeal from this decision.

SINGULAR ROBBERIES AT DUBLIN.—For a considerable time past some of the most valuable parcels have been periodically abstracted from the Steam-packet Office stores, North Wall, Dublin. The goods are proved to have been removed into the stores on the day of their arrival, but on the next day, when it was necessary to send them to the consignees, they have been missing, and no one able to explain their unaccountable disappearance. At last inquiry was instituted, and some clue being obtained, the property was traced to the house of one James Gray. Here several hundred pounds’ worth of stolen goods were discovered. The plan by which Gray managed to carry on the robberies, and, at the same time, to baffle all attempts at discovery, is most ingenious. A large box, resembling a press, was constructed, divided into two compartments, which could be locked and bolted from the inside. In one of these Gray was accustomed to secure himself, the other being left empty for the reception of goods. This case, containing the prisoner, with several other cases of a different shape, was shipped from ports to Dublin, and deposited in the Steam-packet Company’s store, where it was left, labelled, to prevent any uncomfortable consequences to its inmate, “this side up,” and “to be left till called for.” In the night time, when all was still, the thief would unlock the door, silently saunter forth from his place of concealment, and, noiselessly traversing the stores, appropriate valuable bales of silk or heavy parcels of plate, and stow them away in the second compartment. He would then, with the same precaution, return to his quarters, and bolt himself securely within, lie there quietly till morning. When the stores were opened, and the porters busily engaged elsewhere, he would take the opportunity of departing unobserved, and call or send for the case and boxes during the day. Gray and his wife are in custody.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRAORDINARY DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP.—During the last six or seven weeks, much excitement has prevailed in the neighbourhood of Tregear (Cornwall), in consequence of the mysterious slaughter of sheep and lambs belonging to Mr. Lethbridge and his neighbours. A systematic watch was commenced; nevertheless, the slaughter continued, sheep being killed in the very field surrounded by a party of at least fifteen or twenty watchmen. All sorts of conjectures arose; wild dogs, wolves, even witchcraft, were in turn made to explain this mystery. At length Mr. Lethbridge’s shepherd found a clue; he discovered a hole lined with dogs’ hair in a hedge, and a similar nest in an adjoining plantation. This discovery filled the whole party with encouragement; the men turned out in great force; the locality, in fact, was literally surrounded by anxious watchers; but, in spite of all this, the slaughter continued, and although the sheep were for the most part killed within a few feet of some five or six men purposely watching, the mystery remained. Six weeks thus passed away. At length it occurred to some one that, strangely enough, in almost every instance (and by this time between thirty and forty sheep had been destroyed) Simon Kniver (Mr. Lethbridge’s shepherd) was the man who had found the slaughtered cattle; that Simon Kniver was the only man who had seen dogs in the fields. Simon, too, had discovered the “dogs’ nests.” This brought to the mind of somebody else, on discussing the matter, that Simon had his hair cut about the time the nests were discovered, and that the hair therein was very like his own. The result was, that instead of watching any longer for dogs, a determination was come to to watch the shepherd; and but one ewe and lamb swelled the list of the destroyed before Simon Kniver was detected and in custody. After a lengthened examination, he was fully committed to take his trial at the next Cornwall Assizes for maliciously killing and maiming cattle. It came out in evidence that, while watching with others, the prisoner would pretend that he heard dogs, or would then rush to the spot, and after being absent a short time, would return and report the death of either a sheep or a lamb, or perhaps several of each; in this interval he had done the work of the supposed wild dogs.

NOVEL THEATRICAL EXHIBITION.—At Dorland Theatre, lately, the performers engaged in representing Sheridan Knowles’s play, “The Wife,” failed to please the audience, the indignant pit and boxes rushed on to the stage, driving the unfortunate Leon-rodo Gonzaga, Duke of Mantua, and all the host of noblemen and counts, behind the scenes. The police were called in, and endeavoured to clear the stage, but without effect; and in the darkness (for nearly all the lights had been extinguished) numerous “single combats” came off, creating a scene of indescribable confusion. To cap the climax, the cashier was lashed with the whole of the proceeds, leaving the unfortunate manager to the tender mercies of his creditors, who took possession of the wardrobe, &c., all entirely new.

ECCLESIASTICAL URBANITY.—The Bishop of Exeter was holding a confirmation, last week, at Exmouth, and before commencing the ceremony he saw a certain gentleman rise up in a pew along with a couple of young ladies. The Bishop roared out, “What do you there, sir! Go out, sir!” The gentleman thus addressed was perfectly astounded; for, remarkably enough, he was in church in obedience to the rubric, as “a witness of the confirmation of his daughters.” He proved to be, we are told, the Rev. Nicholas Walters, M.A., rural dean, and vicar of All Saints, Stanford.

THE ALLEGED POISONING AT ASHTON.—The adjourned inquest on Emma Stott, of Ashton, supposed to have been poisoned by a neighbour named Jane Newton (in custody on suspicion), has been held. Mr. Stone, analytical chemist at Manchester, said that he had examined the intestines of deceased, and discovered the presence of arsenic in various portions of them. The daughter of deceased showed that her mother was in company with the prisoner on the Saturday night before her death, and came home complaining of sickness. She continued sick until the Monday following, when she died. This was the effect of all the evidence, no poison having been traced to the prisoner, nor motive for the murder having been shown. The case has been further adjourned.

PIDDINGS UNROTATED.—A complaint was lately made before the Liverpool magistrates, against a baker named Hickson, for selling flour adulterated with white lead. The charge was proved, but the magistrates declined to convict, as, in their opinion, neither the local nor the general act fully met the case in question.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XIX.

As we have, in consequence of the Whitsuntide holidays, no parliamentary events to chronicle, we shall say a few words upon the PARTIES IN THE HOUSE.

"Parties in the House?" some simple reader may say; "well, they are soon enumerated. There are—first, Whigs; second, Radicals; third, Tories; and fourth, Peetites." But we beg to inform the simple reader that if this is all he knows about the composition of the House of Commons, he is very ignorant indeed of the character of the great National Assembly. A happy man would Lord Palmerston be if he had no more parties in the House to deal with than these. The political game, which night after night during the session he has to play, would be merely a pleasant amusement, instead of the difficult and painful business that it really is. But, alas, for him and his colleagues and "whips!" the division does not even exhaust the political parties; and if it did, they too well know that there are others innumerable. Just let us look at a few. First after the political we notice the religious.

RELIGIOUS PARTIES.

And here what a Babel we have stepped into! It is almost impossible to enumerate the divisions under this head. We reckon, however, that there are at least eight distinct and sharply defined religious sects in the House.

1. Protestant.
2. Catholic.
3. High Church Episcopalians.
4. Low Church, or Evangelical ditto.
5. Scottish National Kirk.
6. Scottish Free Kirk.
7. Irish Presbyterian.
8. English, Scotch, Welsh, and Irish Nonconformists.

But this arrangement does not exhaust all the sects in the House of Commons. For instance, are there no divisions in the Catholic Church? None beyond what we have set down in the Church of England? Are there not other shades in public opinion in the Scottish Kirk?—the Scottish Free Kirk? And who will pretend to say, that the Protestant Dissenters are a compact homogeneous body? The simple fact is, that the religious parties in the House are endless. And, hence, when a religious question is before the House, all calculations are at an end. Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli are no longer leaders—their political friends fly off in every conceivable direction. The strangest combinations take place; and Mr. Hayter throws down his whip in despair. Tories fraternise with Radicals; High Churchmen and Voluntaries walk into the same lobby; and furious Protestant zealots may often be seen dividing with ultra-southern Papists. Whitesides are in close proximity with Malls—Disraeli with Lord Palmerston—and Mr. Spooner is side by side with Mr. Haddfield. Such, then, is a glimpse, just a glimpse, into the religious divisions of the House.—But then we have

THE NATIONAL PARTIES.

English, Irish, Scotch, and Welsh! Now, if all these were governed by the same laws, this division would not be of much importance. But they are not. Each of these countries has, apart from certain general laws, an extensive code of its own. And each country is very jealous lest its exemptions and peculiar privileges should be interfered with. And it is curious to observe, as we have often done, how the battles on these questions are marked by the peculiar national characteristics. For instance, when an important Scotch measure is introduced, now different is the scene in the House to that which presents itself when an Irish measure is discussed! Scotch battles are not uncommon in the House, but they are always conducted with the most exemplary propriety—and are never very long in their duration. Generally, however, Scotch measures pass with little or no debate at all. The business is managed in this way:—When a bill is printed, it is circulated over the country, and read by those whom it specially concerns. And if any difference of opinion arises, the opposing parties assemble together in private; meet the Scotch Law Officers of the Crown; arrange the differences, meeting each other half-way; and the bill, which if it had been Irish instead of Scotch, would have been the source of several nights' angry debate, passes almost *sub silentio*. During this Session, a Scotch bankruptcy Bill, consisting of more than 100 clauses, passed through committee in twenty minutes, without a single objection. This certainly was an extraordinary case—altogether unparalleled, we should think. And so the House seemed to think; for when Mr. Fitzroy, who had been running over the clauses at railroad speed for twenty minutes, came to the end, the House gave him a loud cheer. But how different is it with Irish measures! Every Government Irish measure—good, bad, or indifferent—is always considered to be a sort of Trojan horse, concealing troops of foes; and no measure proceeding from the Government is ever allowed to pass unopposed. And such opposition! Why, we have known hours and hours of passionate, fervid eloquence thrown away upon a simple continuance bill. And as to an Irish bankruptcy bill, like the Scotch bill mentioned above, we don't believe that it would be possible to pass it in a single session. What torrents of fiery eloquence would flow from Whitesides! What columns of talk would be uttered by Vincent Scully! How would Patrick O'Brien threaten to sit all night rather than consent to "such injustice to Ireland!" And how would Cairns anatomise it, and Kennedy drone over it, and Vance try to talk it out; and so on, and so on, until every Irish member had spoken, and it became an utter impossibility to pass the bill that session! It is a curious fact that very few Irish bills are applied for at the vote-office, whilst the Scotch, when they have a measure before the House, not uncommonly exhaust the stock of printed copies.

These, then, are some of the parties in the House—but there are many others. For instance, there is the "Commercial interest," the "Manufacturing interest," or "Manchester School," the "Agricultural interest," the "Country party," the "Railway interest," and, indeed, a host of other—for "their name is legion." And let it be remembered that not a session passes, but all these parties are more or less brought distinctly out, sometimes in collision, sometimes in close co-operation, with the Government and with one another. In short, our readers have no doubt seen that curious instrument, the kaleidoscope. Well, the parties in the House resemble the bits of glass in that more than anything else that we have seen. Sometimes, on looking through the tube of the instrument, there seem to be only two divisions—the light colour and the dark; but give the instrument a shake, and all is different. So it is with the House of Commons. Look at it when there is a great political fight, like the Kers debate, and there appear to be only two colours developed; but let Mr. Spooner give it a shake with his Maynooth question—or Sir W. Clay with his Church Rate Bill—or Mr. Heywood with his Abolition of University Tests—or Mr. Horsman with an Irish measure—and every political and religious colour will stand out in bold relief, and the most curious combinations will occur. In short, it is by no means a united family that Mr. Speaker presides over, but simply the most heterogeneous assembly in the world, comprehending all political opinions, religious creeds, and national peculiarities, besides being marked with the common characteristic of every assembly of human beings, viz., that every Member has his own special idiosyncrasies, making him different in some degree, not only from every other Member of the House, but from every other human being in the world.

THE FERMOY PEERAGE.—Eight of the learned judges pronounced on Monday, in the House of Lords, that the Act of Union with Ireland did not warrant the Government, on the extinction of three peerages, in the creation of a barony of Fermoy in favour of Mr. David Roche; and several of the judges, including the Chief Baron, intimated that it was an attempted innovation on the recognised practice of half a century. If, therefore, Mr. Roche's political services are to be rewarded with a peerage, the same must be a new creation.

THE SLIGO ELECTION COMMITTEE.—This Committee met on Monday, and after some deliberation, declared that Mr. Wynne had been duly elected. Moreover, the Committee were of opinion that the petition was frivolous and vexatious, and resolved—that the witnesses, Edward Killoran, James Ward, and Ann Ward, had been guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

A SECTION OF SHAREHOLDERS of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, have memorialised the Board of Trade against the continuance of the undertaking.

Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, MAY 19.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

GENERAL WALKER AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

The Earl of CLARENDON, in answer to a question from the Earl of Elgin, stated, that some time after the attack of Walker on Nicaragua, the Government of Costa Rica applied to the English Government for assistance. It was suggested that England should take the protectorate of those countries. The offer was declined, the English Government being determined to have nothing to do with the affairs of Central America. All the Government had done was to send to the coast a naval force, just sufficient to afford due protection to British subjects and their property. The agent for Costa Rica then stated that Government intended to oppose Walker, but that it had no arms; the agent, having no credit in this country, could not himself purchase them; he therefore asked whether the War Department could not furnish him with a supply. This was not acceded to. Since Walker took possession of Nicaragua, he had seized a good deal of British property, by the form of forced loans. From a despatch from Mr. Crampton, dated the 15th of March, it appeared that the United States' Government regretted the state of things in Nicaragua, and was as anxious as the British Government to see Walker routed out; and the Earl of Clarendon thought there could be no better mode of effecting this than that the American and British Governments should combine for the purpose.

THE CIRCASSIANS.

The Earl of CLARENDON also, in reply to the Earl of Malmesbury, said it was quite true a deputation of Circassians had made a representation to the Turkish Government, in which they called on the Allies to protect their independence, but the English Government had not received any document, except a letter from some Circassian chiefs to the Queen. The spokesman of this deputation was an individual who was not a Circassian at all, and who, during the war, had shown himself anything but friendly to the Allies.

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE moved for the appointment of a select committee to examine into the administration of the Indian empire. The Noble Earl supported his motion by some prolonged comments upon the anomalous conditions and injurious results with which the existing government of India was now carried on.

Earl GRANVILLE opposed the motion, which, after some further remarks from the Earl of Ellenborough, was negatived without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE HANDS IN THE PARKS.

In reply to Mr. Otway, LORD PALMERSTON stated that only the performances by military bands in the metropolitan parks would close; the prohibition would not extend to similar exhibitions in garrison or other towns in the provinces.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his financial statement. Reverting to the expenditure of the past year, he cited the balance-sheet lately presented, which showed that the total outlay in the twelve months ending on the 31st of March last had been £86,428,000, while the revenue from taxation had amounted to £63,704,000, showing a deficit of £22,724,000. During that year, a sum of £26,478,000 had been borrowed, partly by loans in consols, and partly upon Exchequer bills and bonds, with the effect of not merely providing for the deficiency in the year's revenue, but also of augmenting the treasury balance, which stood at the beginning of the financial year at £3,949,000, and had increased at the end of it to £5,000,000. With respect to the cost of the war, Sir G. C. Lewis instituted a comparison between the expenditure and income of the last years of peace, as contrasted with that of the period which had elapsed since the outbreak of hostilities. In the two years, 1852-3 and 1853-4, the amount received from all sources of revenue had been £108,018,000, which had satisfied all demands and left a surplus of about £5,916,000. In the past two years of war, £125,200,000 had been realised from the taxes, showing an increase of £17,152,000 beyond the previous revenue; which augmentation, in addition to the previously accruing surplus, and a sum of £33,694,000 of borrowed money, had been swallowed up by the expenses of the contest. The estimated outlay incurred on account of the war, and in anticipation of another campaign during the current twelvemonth, was £24,400,000. The war altogether, therefore, would have cost £77,558,000. Of this large expenditure, he reminded the House a considerable portion was represented by a permanent result in an improved army and navy, and in arsenals amply stocked with munitions of war. Passing on to the anticipated outlay and income of the current year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer remarked that the revised estimates recently presented had shown a reduction of £17,559,000, accomplished since the conclusion of peace upon the army and navy alone. The total estimated expenditure for 1856-7, including the loan of a million to Sardinia, he computed at £77,555,000. Adverting to revenue, Sir G. C. Lewis explained the returns, and said that during the current year, he anticipated to obtain a gross revenue of £71,740,000, and a net income of £67,152,000. Compared with the gross amount of expenditure this total showed a deficit of £6,373,000. To fill up this chasm, a million and a half had been received as balance of a loan of five millions concluded, but only partially paid up, during the bygone year and a new loan of five millions had been contracted that very morning at a price of £94 for every £100 consols stock. For the residue of the deficiency, being about two millions, he desired to ask leave to borrow money either in Exchequer bonds or Exchequer bills. Explaining the process by which the income tax, the tea duties, and other impost would be successively reduced, in consequence of the termination of hostilities, he intimated that, with these exceptions, no reduction could for some time to come be prudently sanctioned in any branch of revenue.

A formal resolution, sanctioning the terms of the new loan of £5,000,000, was then read from the chair.

MR. DISRAELI exhorted the Government, when the excitement of war had passed away, to embark upon a course of wise and rigid economy, and contrived to do this by assuming that a large warlike force should be kept on foot in time of peace by way of preparation for the contingency of war. The best mode of preparing for hostilities was, to economise resources and extend commerce during peace. Mr. Disraeli then adverted to the Sardinian loan, commenting upon the relationships between the British Government and the Sovereign of Piedmont, especially as affected by the tripartite alliance concluded between England, France, and Austria.

LORD PALMERSTON explained the import of the treaty in question, in which, he remarked, Mr. Disraeli had suspected mysterious meanings that did not exist, and discovered dangers that had no foundation in fact. The treaty was for one purpose, and for one only—namely, that there should be a mutual engagement between England, France, and Austria, to provide for the due execution of the treaty for securing the independence of the Turkish empire, but not binding England and France to guarantee the possessions of Austria. As to any secret project of revolutionising Italy, there was not the slightest ground from which any man could imply such an imputation.

SIR F. BARING expressed a general approval of the financial scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. GLADSTONE continued the discussion relative to Sardinia, eulogising the policy which had been pursued by that country, and invoking the sympathy of the British Legislature and public in behalf of the efforts it was making to consolidate its free constitution and domestic prosperity.

THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER having replied to some queries urged during the course of the discussion, the resolution was agreed to.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TUESDAY, MAY 20.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH laid on the table a series of resolutions relating to the convention appended to the Treaty of Peace, by which the maritime law of the country is modified.

THE DIVORCE BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the Divorce Bill. He described the preliminary steps at present necessary in suits of divorce, before application could be made to the House for the private bill that could alone enable the parties to marry again; these were, to obtain a verdict in an action of crim. con. in a civil court, and a sentence of separation by an ecclesiastical court. By the present bill it was intended to do away with the necessity of going through these preliminary proceedings, which were frequently of a revolting character. It was proposed to establish a tribunal, called the Court of Divorce, having power to deal with the facts of the case, and pronounce a sentence of dissolution of marriage at once. This tribunal would take viva voce evidence of the facts in proof of the allegation of adultery; it might summon a jury in the case, or direct an issue to be tried by a jury, and there would be a right of appeal from its decisions to the House of Lords. The Court would only take evidence on an allegation of adultery on the petition of the husband, except in a case of incestuous adultery on the part of the husband, when the suit might be promoted by the wife.

LORD LYNDHURST thought the measure insufficient, and that in its present shape it ought not to pass into a law. The bill itself, and the whole question, should be referred to a select committee for inquiry. The bill would not render the situation of women better, but in most cases make it much worse. Women had a right to complain of the present state of the law, by which, even if separated from the husband, he could, and generally did, keep all their property for his own use; all a woman might inherit after separation was her husband's; and all she might earn by her talents for her own support was also her husband's by law. The bill gave no remedy for this great injustice. Nor did it give a woman any protection in the most odious of all actions—a suit for divorce; she was not allowed to appear, or give evidence, though to her it was a question of life or death, while to a defendant in such a case it was only a matter of money. He could not see by what principle the new tribunal was to be governed, and

complicated machinery would be constructed for an insufficient purpose. He denounced the injustice that denied to a wife the right of prevailing against the husband, except in a special case; and moved that the bill be referred to a select committee.

LORD BROUGHAM seconded the motion; the evils to be met required a much larger remedy than this bill. The present principle by which they granted relief to the husband almost as a matter of course, and equally as a matter of course refused it to the wife, was repugnant to the sense of justice. He concurred with Lord Lyndhurst that the measure would rather make the present state of the law worse, than improve it.

LORD REDESDALE deprecated any interference with what had been the law of England from the introduction of Christianity. Much of the happiness of marriage depended on the feeling that the bond could not be dissolved.

The EARL of CLARENDON supported the bill.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, after a brief reply, consented to adopt the suggestion of Lord Lyndhurst, and the bill was ordered to be referred to the select committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SEPARATE TREATY.

LORD PALMERSTON, in reply to the Marquis of Granby, said that the only treaty concluded between England, France, and Austria, was that which had been laid upon the table.

THE BALLOT.

MR. H. BERKELEY repeated his annual motion for leave to introduce a bill to take votes by way of ballot; or, in his own words, he renewed his entreaty to the House to permit him to pass a measure to extricate the electors of Great Britain and Ireland from the state of humiliation and degradation into which he thought, they were plunged by the instrumentality of open voting. Having described, in a vein of sarcastic humour, the present position of the ballot question, he proceeded to grapple with the various arguments which he had last seen recorded in opposition to it, contending that open voting, so far from conserving the electoral trust, led to its direct breach; that intimidation, the master evil of the existing system, could only be cured by the ballot; that, take away open voting, and intimidation would collapse and die. In support of these positions Mr. Berkeley employed ridicule as well as reasoning, appealing to authorities and examples in both America and England.

MR. PEACOCK, in opposition to the motion, observed that Mr. Berkeley had not adduced a single instance of intimidation. He was bound to show that the ballot would protect the honest and conscientious voter, whereas he (Mr. Peacock) contended that this was precisely the class to which it would afford no protection; and that it would protect only the liar, the hypocrite, and the knave, while it would, in his opinion, open a door to an extensive system of fraud.

After a few words in explanation rather than reply, from Mr. Berkeley, the House went at once to a division, when the motion was negatived by 151 to 111.

ECCLESIASTICAL PATRONAGE.

MR. J. G. PHILLIMORE sought leave to introduce a bill to take away from the archbishops, bishops, and other ecclesiastical persons in England and Wales, all power of appointing judges or chancellors, and to vest such powers in the Lord Chancellor.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL approved of the object which the measure was designed to accomplish, and, without pledging himself as to its details, gave a willing consent to the introduction of the bill.

Some further discussion ensued, in which MR. GLADSTONE, LORD PALMERSTON, MR. MALINS, MR. WATSON, and other Members took part, and leave was then given to bring in the bill.

MR. COWPER obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend the Public Health Act. The measure, as the Hon. Member explained, was designed to remove certain ambiguities contained in the existing statute, to enlarge the powers it conferred, and accomplish some further improvements in its working details.

MR. PELLATT obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of imprisonment for debt.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHURCH RATE QUESTION.

MR. PACE moved the second reading of the Church Rate Bill. By this measure the levy of a church rate was to be rendered compulsory, but a clause was inserted exempting nonconformists from all payments on account of the provision for service, etc., in the churches, leaving them liable only to a comparatively small contribution for the purposes of maintaining the fabric of the edifice in decent repair. The Hon. Member briefly explained and defended the principle of the bill.

SIR W. CLAY moved as an amendment that the second reading should be deferred for six months. The bill, he remarked, was directly antagonistic in character to one which he had himself lately introduced, and for which he had obtained the sanction of a considerable majority in that house.

This amendment was supported by MR. HADFIELD and SIR G. GREY. On the suggestion of Sir J. PAKINGTON, the bill was withdrawn.

THURSDAY, MAY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

STATE OF ITALY.

LORD LYNDHURST withdrew the motion of which he had given notice (for Tuesday next) relative to the present state of Italy.

The EARL of CLARENDON expressed his satisfaction that the motion had been withdrawn; as negotiations were pending, any discussion might be prejudicial.

THE CHANGE IN OUR MARITIME LAW.

LORD COLCHESTER moved a series of resolutions, condemning the article of the convention appended to the Treaty of Paris, by which a change has been effected in the maritime law of England without previous reference to the Legislature. The declaration laid down four principles, it was chiefly to the second of these that he wished to draw the attention of the House; it stated that a neutral flag should henceforth cover an enemy's goods unless they were contraband of war. This was a surrender of an important right, which this country had always possessed; he cited authorities by which this right has been declared part of international law; and stated the periods and occasions when the right had been asserted by the English Government. It had now been abandoned in a negotiation of eight days only; and the question was, whether a Minister could sign away a portion of the law of the land.

The EARL of CLARENDON denied that the honour and safety of England were involved in maintaining this right over neutral maritime Powers. During the last century there had been 133 international engagements, and in all, except eleven, the right had been practically abandoned. In a great war, England was rarely neutral, but America was considered the protector of all neutral States. In former wars, the marine of America was comparatively small; at the beginning of the present war, it exceeded 5,000,000 tons, and America would not submit to our exclusive law. The order in council issued at the commencement of hostilities with Russia was most favourably received by all neutral Powers, and preserved to England their good-will. He believed the declaration was justified by the law of nations, which was founded on the dictates of reason and justice. As to the manner in which the convention had been made, it was a recognised principle of the constitution that the Crown had full power of concluding all treaties. England had abandoned with signal success many exclusive rights once thought essential to her greatness, and by abolishing the practice of privateering she had acted on sound policy and done much to reduce the miseries of war.

The EARL of HARDWICKE regretted, as an Englishman, that conditions so derogatory to England should have been accepted under French influence.

The EARL of ALBEMARLE approved of the change which rendered the practices of maritime warfare similar to those which had been so long adopted in hostilities carried on on land, and the Duke of ARGYL justified the resignation of a right which had become almost obsolete.

The EARL of DERBY protested against the course of the Government, both for what it had done and the mode of doing it. This concession was an abandonment of the naval supremacy of the country, and had its terms been known, would have been generally denounced and rejected. He contended that without this right the mere power of establishing a blockade would be insufficient against a powerful enemy. Against its concessions he solemnly protested, as derogatory to the honour of the country, inconsistent with its interests, and fraught with danger to its future greatness, power, and safety.

After a few words from EARL GRAY and EARL GRANVILLE, in vindication of the declaration, LORD COLCHESTER briefly replied, and their Lordships divided. For the resolution, 102; against, 156. Majority for the Government, 54.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Factories Bill, the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Bill, the Formation of Parishes Bill, the Reformatory Schools (Scotland) Bill, were discussed in committee. The Registration of Leases Bill was read a second time. Other bills were advanced a stage.

RETURN OF FRENCH TROOPS FROM THE CRIMEA.

It may be supposed, from the customary alacrity of the French military authorities, that little time elapsed between the announcement of peace and the embarkation of French soldiery. Transports and ships-of-war were immediately put in requisition, and now almost daily depart with freights of gallant men, saved from the perils of war and the contemplation of a grave in the ungrateful Crimean soil. Still, many eyes are turned back to the land with something of the interest—and perhaps a little of the regret too, in some cases—which association engenders; an interest and regret which become perfectly understandable, at any rate, when the forlorn condition of Frenchmen generally, while at sea, is considered. We are enabled to give a sketch taken on board a French transport departing for Constantinople under such circumstances.



RETURN OF FRENCH TROOPS FROM THE CRIMEA—A MUSSULMAN AT HIS DEVOTIONS.—SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.

THE DISTURBANCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN WALKER AND THE COSTA RICANS.

It is now six years since Central America became the subject of an important treaty between our Government and the United States, the object of which was to convert that isthmus into a channel of communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and thus to give an incalculable push to the commerce of the world. All nations were invited to join in that treaty, and to second England and the United States in neutralising and securing the complete independence of a ship canal across this isthmus, which was thus to become one of the great thoroughfares of the world, and the common property of all states and countries. Already, to the eye of the commercial prophet, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the other States of Central America, were, under the sunshine of an active and peaceful commerce, growing into important and prosperous communities; and Greytown, at the mouth of the San Juan, the Atlantic, and of the new canal, rivalled the Hanseatic cities of the Old World. A company was already formed for the construction of the new canal, and every thing appeared to be in rapid progress.

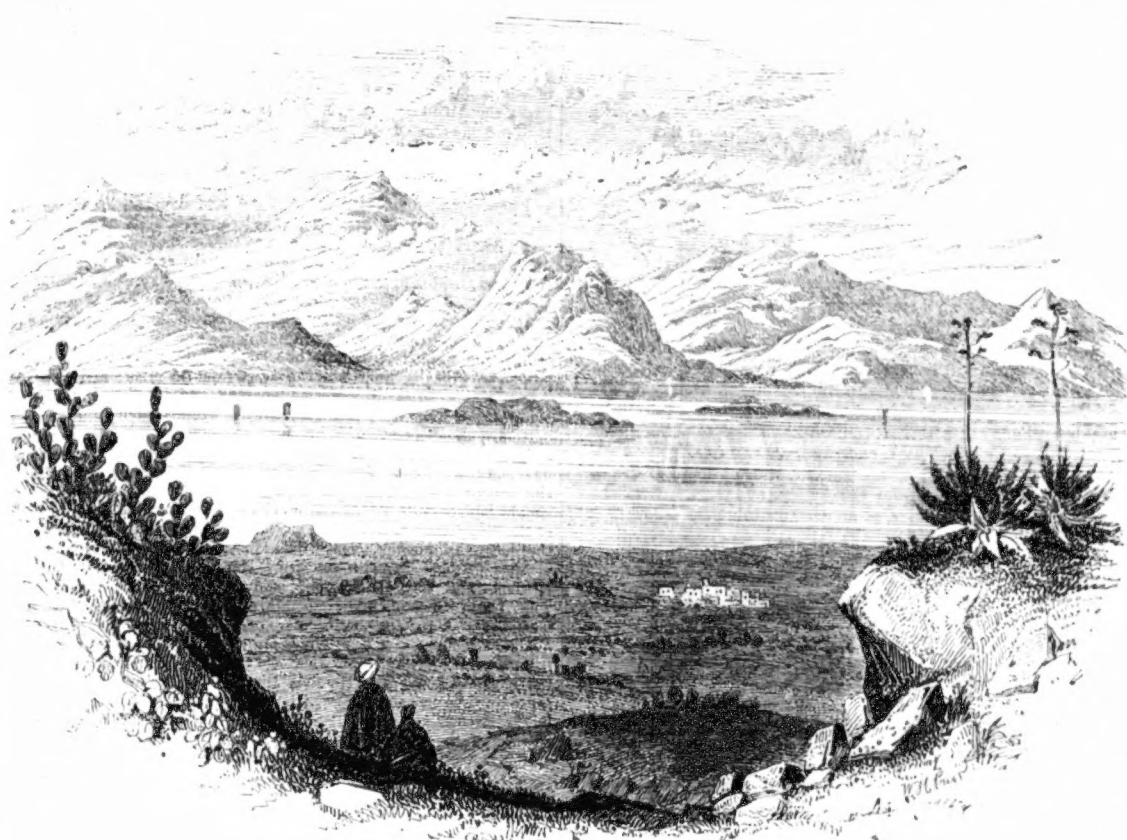
Six years have elapsed since the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, under the protection of which this new order of things was to arise; and now Central America is a scene of confusion, anarchy, and bloodshed. Two hostile states, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, arrayed against each other upon some petty dispute about territory, are fighting upon a principle of mutual extermination. Butcheries, which disgrace humanity, are the order of the day, and the isthmus exhibits war in its worst horrors, disengaged from the restraints of the military code, and abandoned to savage excesses and simple barbarism. An American, General Walker, has possessed himself of the Nicaraguan Government, not, it would appear, without protest from the native authorities, and wields its name and authority. He has invaded Costa Rica with an army composed principally of American citizens, and has, it appears, lately suffered some signal reverses. The Costa Ricans take advantage of their success to retaliate fearfully. After the battle of Santa Rosa, in which 127 men on Walker's side were shot in three minutes, Walker withdrew his troops from Virginia Bay and San Juan del Sur, when the enemy marched into the abandoned towns. He took the back track, and was just in time the following morning to see the inhabitants he had abandoned shot in the streets, and the village reduced to ashes. When he saw the burning of the new pier at Virgin Bay, and was informed of the murder of the peaceable citizens by one who had miraculously escaped, he directed his course to Granada, a distance of fifty-five miles, and, disembarking his men, commenced a march on Rivas with 600 men. These fifty-five miles were accomplished at eight o'clock on the morning of the 11th, and, without even halting, the order to attack was given while the enemy were drawing up on the Plaza to receive them. It is true the Americans fought bravely for near twelve hours, but, as might be expected under such circumstances, the highest glory they could achieve was to prolong the fight till the darkness should cover their retreat; and they once more returned to Granada, leaving 150 of their comrades in their dying agonies, to be committed to the earth by their enemies.

We gather the following intelligence respecting this deplorable contest, from the advices brought by the last mail:—

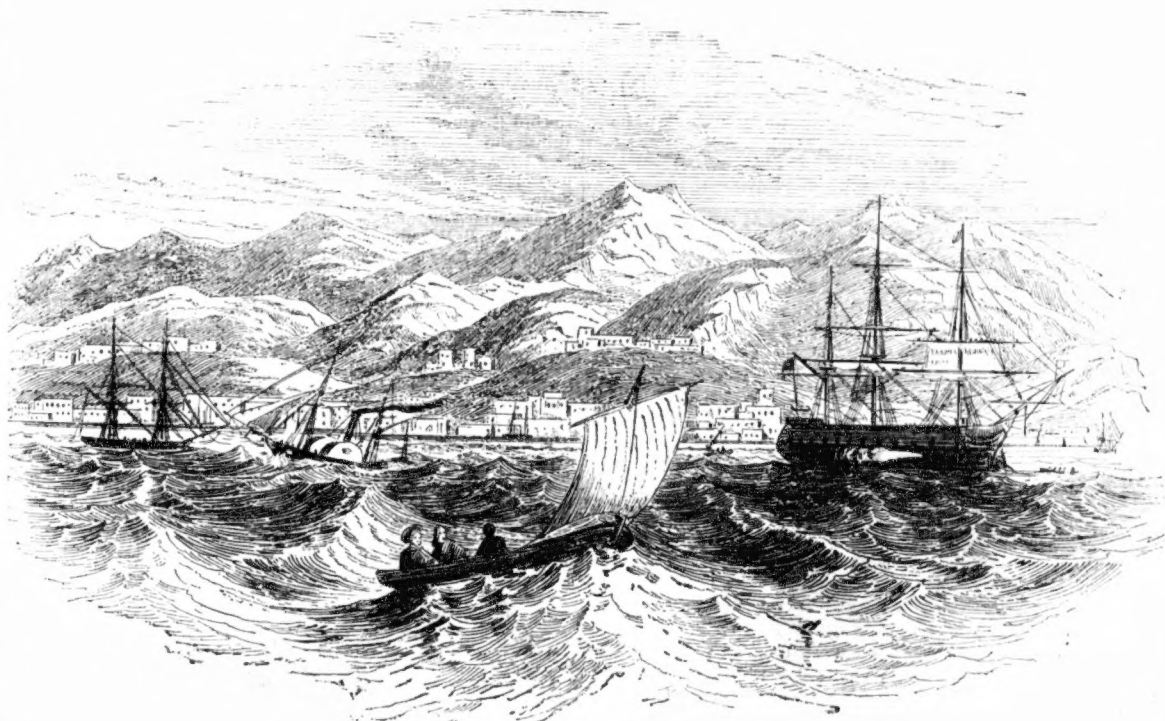
The steamer *Solent* arrived at nine a.m., on April 22, at Aspinwall, with several of Walker's men on board. Steamers *Isabel* and *Charles Morgan* reached Greytown from New Orleans, and landed 500 men for Walker. British ship *Eurydice* blockaded Greytown on the 20th ult. A brig from New Orleans is expected at Greytown with troops for Walker, and would be stopped on her arrival by the British ship *Eurydice*. The United States' steamers *Fulton* and *Merrimac*, with her Britannic Majesty's steamer *Termagant*, were daily expected, with two French ships, to join the blockade. British ship *President* in Punta Arenas on the 31st ult. In the Santa Rosa fight Walker lost twenty-six men and Costa Rica fifteen.



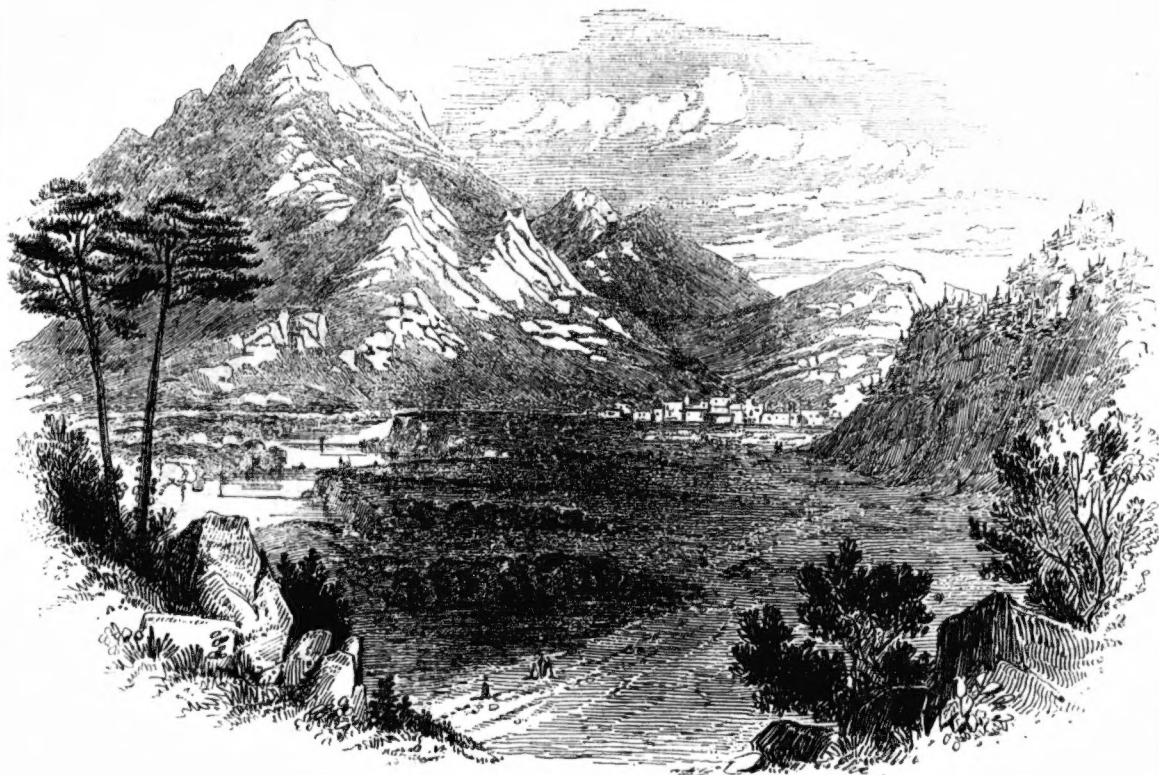
ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN FILIBUSTERS AND THE COSTA RICANS.



LAKE NICARAGUA.



THE CITY OF PANAMA.



THE ANDES AND SANTA ROSA.

men and four officers. Among the Walker prisoners shot by Costa Rica was a Panameno named Franco Narvaez. President Mora invaded Nicaragua with 2,500 men, and was to attack Walker in Rivas about the 19th inst. 2,000 men left Cojutiqueque, Salvador, on the 14th, to help Costa Rica.

THE MASSACRE AT PANAMA.

We gave some particulars, last week, respecting a fearful massacre at Panama, which arose out of a dispute between an intoxicated American and a native, on board a steamboat, with reference to the payment of some paltry sum for a piece of water-melon. The Panama "Star" gives some particulars of the appearances the scene of the occurrence presented on the following morning.

According to this account, the streets approaching the station, among the negro huts, were strewn with cut-open trunks and heavy coils of ropes from the stores; the doors and tables of the ticket office were smeared with blood, or blackened and torn up by closely-discharged muskets, the ball leaving a track across the boards ere it buried itself, after having traversed the body of the unfortunate who lay dead on the floor. In the large room there lay twelve boxes, each containing a dead man. Where the heads of those poor fellows rested there were the pillows, with a pool of blood and brains in the centre. The agonies unspeakable of death had passed, and



ANGEL AT THE CORNER OF THE PEDESTAL OF THE SCUTARI MONUMENT.

now on a cart each one was taken to an unknown grave. Fathers, husbands, brothers, midway between the country they had left and the country they sought, all found a bloody, untimely grave. Shunning the doubtful Nicaragua transit, the most of them were, probably, enjoying the moonlight scene of the Bay of Panama, with their families, when the row that terminated their lives began. It is generally conceded that the quarrel began on the part of some hasty and rude American, and the insolent assurance of a South American black. But the plunders arose from a hidden, pent-up source, to which the original quarrel merely served as the raising of a floodgate.

The United States sloop of war *St. Mary*, 22 guns, Captain Bayley, arrived at Panama on the morning of the 23rd ult. from Guayaquil, and anchored in the bay.

THE ANDES.—The traffic across the Andes, which is carried on by the Chilians and the people of the Argentine Republic, had been recently brought to a stand by long continued falls of heavy rain. Unfortunately, about twenty lives were lost in one of the more violent of the storms.

NAVAL AND MILITARY RESOURCES OF FRANCE.—In 1855 the naval and military resources of France were thus estimated:—382,000 infantry, 86,000 cavalry, 57,000 artillery, 8,200 genie, and 33,800 other troops (including 25,000 gens d'armes). Total, 566,000 men, with 1,182 guns. The maritime power of France consists of 60 line of battle ships, 78 frigates, and 273 smaller vessels. Total, 411 ships and 11,773 guns (without bringing into account those of 112 steam vessels), and 40,270 horse power.

LIFE SIZE PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN.

In consequence of the absorbing interest excited by Palmer's Trial, which at the present time engrosses the entire public attention, it has been decided to postpone the issue of the Magnificent Engraving of the

LIFE SIZE PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN.

Until June 7th, on which day it will be published in connection with the Number for that date of the

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

This Engraving, which has been several months in preparation, has been executed from a drawing made especially for the purpose, and may claim to rank with the most successful portraits of her Majesty heretofore published.

No expense has been spared to render this work of art worthy of its illustrious subject, and it is believed that this, in conjunction with the unusual scale on which it has been produced, will fairly entitle it to be considered unique.

The size of the paper on which the engraving will be printed is 25 inches by 33. None but the finest impressions will be permitted to leave the office, and only regular purchasers of the paper will be supplied with them.

The price of the number of the "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," together with this elaborate Engraving, will be Fourpence. The nominal sum charged for the Engraving will be merely the cost of the paper on which it is printed. It will not be compulsory on Purchasers of the newspaper to buy the Engraving, but no copies of the Engraving will be sold distinct from the newspaper upon any consideration whatever.

Specimen impressions are now ready for delivery. Country Agents applying for them, are requested to state how they can be sent.

PALMER'S TRIAL.

AN EXTRA NUMBER OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

CONTAINING a Full Report of this Important event, and a large Number of Engravings, embracing Scenes in the Central Criminal Court; Views in Newgate; the Sheriff's Dinner; Portraits of the Judges, Counsel, and Chief Witnesses; and Representations of every Scene and Object of interest connected with this exciting event—will be published immediately the trial terminates. Price Twopence.

Orders should be immediately given, as the demand is certain to be very large. 148, Fleet Street, London.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1856.

NATIONAL MONEY MATTERS.

THE speech in which our learned CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought forward his Budget, was as lucid and interesting a composition of the kind as we remember. There is a tradition that CANNING was absolutely entertaining on the Currency, but the printed speeches scarcely bear out this; and if they did, the fact would be one of dubious advantage to his memory in a practical country. Enough if he who handles such matters be clear without being lively—we want clear water every day, effervescing or soda water only occasionally. Sir CORNEWALL exhibited that precision and command of facts which a man acquires who has long been investigating difficult subjects; and we dare say that in reading his address we are enjoying the benefit of his Roman studies. We shall not "bore" our readers (if the familiarity may be pardoned) by printing long heaps of figures which may be seen everywhere, and are not easily understood anywhere; but we propose to give his results—to state generally the relation between his figures and the politics of the day, and to use the figures themselves as sparingly as may be.

Of course, everybody first turns their attention to the war. After blood, as after wine, comes the bill! Well, the "excess" is easily measured in money; we know our regular, and can quickly learn our war, expenditure. The "excess" in two years of war was £53,088,711. This sum in cold figures makes a man's breath come short; it requires an effort of the imagination, a wearisome stretch, such as thinking of the distance of the stars gives one, to fancy all it suggests—the miles of troops and tents, the fleets of transports and men-of-war, the raining of shot and shell for continuous weeks! But, then, there was a vast expense for the possible (some said the probable, and many the *desirable*) third year of the game. So that the total expenditure for the three years amounts to £77,588,000. That is to say, it cost us some twenty-four millions to prepare for the fighting which did not come. We have the results, however, in the shape of such a mass of *matériel* as we never had before. We are absolutely in a plethora in that way—bursting with gunpowder, and groaning with shot. So that we have, after all, our money's worth. First in the Peace (not so easily to be had, but for the hum of these preparations), next, in a heap of stores, &c., which will "keep" for the next bully, whoever he may be. We have them ready—like the cane which somebody hung up in a coffee-house, indicating that he meant to chastise POPE at a fitting opportunity. And since Easter, our CHANCELLOR has materially reduced his Army and Navy Estimates; the first by some fourteen millions, the second by some seventeen ditto; and (if nothing mischievous turns up) we shall soon find ourselves economising in these departments again.

Apropos of these pecuniary facts, Sir CORNEWALL made a sensible reflection, which the public ought to be thankful for. Our mechanical improvements, he says, crowd into a small space operations which, in former years, covered a large period. The American War lasted six years, and this was nothing to some wars. We now, by dint of steam, bring things to a crisis much quicker, which will affect all wars, and, through them, all politics, for the future. And, indeed, it is the ideal of a war, in many respects, that it should be sharp and short—like a good surgical operation. Long wars are exhaustive and demoralising, and change their character as they go on; and after all, perhaps, do not really effect more.

The war has been paid partly out of taxes, partly by an addition to the National Debt of £42,000,000. These millions are trifles compared with the £124,000,000 added to the said debt by the American War, which gained us nothing, but transmitted to the Yankees traditions of pride and resentment, which help to make our negotiations with that people so difficult.

With regard to the taxes—there is no change, one way or other, proposed for the year. The high duties on tea, coffee, and sugar, will remain as they are till April, 1857, when a partial reduction takes

place. The Income-tax remains as it is—i.e., at 1s. 4d. in the pound—till next April, and when it will go, nobody knows. The House gave a "laugh" when it was mentioned; but our sense of humour, we fear, is obtuse. It is satisfactory to know, that, in spite of taxes, the consumption of such articles as tea and coffee increases steadily. Beer, we are glad to know, remains at a healthy level—neither rising (which might indicate intoxication), nor falling (which might indicate poverty). We agree with the CHANCELLOR and Sheriff ALISON, that the duties on spirits ought to be "moderately high."

Altogether, the financial state of the country, as times go, is good; and, considering the late war, may be said to be very good. We venture no remarks on the ultimate policy of borrowing; but the system of loans being established, we only say that it seems to work as well, at present, as such a system can.

The mention of borrowing naturally suggests lending, and the second million to Sardinia must not be passed over. That the country will cheerfully agree to it, is beyond all doubt; but the country will not fail to be curious what our vast pro-Sardinian professions are going to lead to. DISRAELI did well to call out explanations on this subject; but all one can gather from PALMERSTON is, that Sardinia's business is to set Italy a "high constitutional example." In plain English, Sardinia is to stand as an example, which other Italian nations are unable to follow, from the nature of things. Why not point out a fine, rosy fox-hunter, as an example to a poor fellow in a consumption? This would be equally rational, since, whatever Sardinia does by dint of her freedom, cannot possibly be done by nations without freedom. But the truth is, that our foreign affairs were never more mysterious (and when are they clear?) than just now. We have Ministers who encourage Italy, and form treaties with Austria, in one and the same breath. It is a system of scheming, which unites a pretence to liberalism with the practical support of despots—a system by which PAM. ensnares Lombards into the noose of the gallows, while getting the votes of Finsbury and the Tower Hamlets. The game is stale, but it is not the less deadly; and to complete it, we shall soon hear, no doubt, that Prussia is too despotic for our alliance, from the supporters of Austrian hangmen.

It was natural that the account of our military and naval expenses should provoke discussion on both our past and our future expenditure in these departments. We are on the eve of a period when economy is to be preached, and preached not by a few Radical members, but by Whigs, Tories, and all! They tell us that a large army would have broken down as thoroughly as a small one in the first Crimean winter; so LUCAN the mediocre, and CARDIGAN the feather-head d., must find somebody else to blame than JOE HUME. Their own order deserts them on this point—with what amount of tact and prudence, we do not care to say. *Certes*, high Conservative statesmen are now professed economists. We hope to see an economy which directs itself to the right objects; but—however strange the fact—it is a fact, that it is now "the people" which wants a large army, while the potentates insist on a cheap nucleus, to be made an army of note when required. Let both parties agree to have the thing well done, with as much sound and *bona fide* economy as possible. The popular zeal for soldiers will cool as the Russian War is superseded by other topics; but that we shall want another great army some day, is as certain as that the sun is in heaven. There never was a better opportunity for laying the foundation of an improved military system than now. We do not want (thank God) an army like that of Austria; but we do want an army, so disciplined and officered, that it shall be able to go to work without lowering the name, harrowing the feelings, and damaging the institutions of England.

PALMER'S TRIAL—DR. ALFRED TAYLOR AND THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

ON Monday last, at the trial of Palmer, an episode arose out of the cross-examination of Dr. Alfred Taylor, with which the name of this newspaper was connected. Serjeant Shee inquired of Dr. Taylor whether the report of an interview that he had granted to a gentleman from this office, and which report appeared in No. 37 of the "Illustrated Times," was published with his, Dr. Taylor's, sanction. Dr. Taylor went the length of denying that it was, and moreover proceeded to say, that a gross imposition had been practised upon him; further, that he did not know Mr. Mayhew was connected with any newspaper; that he had only seen a proof of a portion of the article in question, and that he had protested strongly against its publication, without effect. These statements are proved to be untrue. Mr. Henry Mayhew, to whom we entrusted an inquiry into the frauds perpetrated upon insurance companies, the results of which inquiry appeared in successive numbers of this Journal—has written a letter to the Daily Papers, stating: 1st, that the letter of introduction he took with him from Professor Faraday to Dr. Taylor, intimated that the information which Dr. Taylor might think proper to communicate was required for the purpose of publication; 2nd, that at the end of the interview, Dr. Taylor gave his permission to publish the results of the conversation, provided a proof of the article were previously sent to him; 3rd, that Dr. Taylor subsequently wrote a letter to him reiterating this permission; 4th, that Dr. Taylor, in his presence, corrected a proof of the article, (which proof is still in existence) and that not a single line was printed in the "Illustrated Times" which had not received Dr. Taylor's sanction.

Mr. H. S. Edwards, who accompanied Mr. Mayhew on the occasion of his first visit to Dr. Taylor, corroborates Mr. Mayhew in every particular, adding, moreover, the fact, that portions of the article were really written at Dr. Taylor's request.

The letters of Mr. Mayhew and Mr. Edwards will be found in the extra number of the "Illustrated Times," which contains the report of Palmer's trial.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA.—Sir Henry Barkly is to be the new Governor of Victoria. After having passed seven years in the West Indies and conducted the government of two important colonies with eminent success at a critical period, he will almost immediately return to England, and receive his appointment to the charge of the new and wealthy society which has lately sprung into existence on the shores of Australia.

REJECTION OF A FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN PADDINGTON.—On Monday, a public meeting of the ratepayers of the parish of Paddington was held, for the purpose of considering a proposal for the introduction of the Public Libraries Act into the parish. After a considerable uproar, the proposition was lost, two-thirds of the ratepayers present not having supported it, in accordance with the requirements of the act.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE IN ST. BARNABAS, PIMLICO.—On Sunday morning some of the dissenters from the form of worship at St. Barnabas, attended for the purpose of preventing certain portions of the service being proceeded with, and to enforce what they considered their right as parishioners to sit in the chancel of the church, which was usually filled with choristers, who intoned various parts of the service. The opponents numbered about 60; and their principal object was to drown the singing of the service by their voices. Before, however, the intonation commenced, Mr. Collett (late M.P.) and other persons proceeded into the chancel for the purpose of demanding a seat in that portion of the church. No sooner, however, had they made their way into the forbidden part than they were followed by some of the officials, who seized them and insisted that they should immediately leave the place. The eyes of all the congregation were, of course, turned towards the chancel, and after great commotion, the intruders were ejected from the church.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE TROUBLOUS TIMES IN GENERAL NABLOUS have for the present subsided. FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND FRANCS have been voted for the expenses of the baptismal rites of the Prince Imperial.

THE SPRING FLEET from the north of Scotland has taken out about 1,000 passengers to Canada this season.

THE SARDINIAN expenses of the war up to the first of May amount to 44,000,000 of francs.

IT IS STATED that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has applied for, and obtained, leave of absence.

RUMOUR CONFERS ON NAPOLEON III. an invitation to visit Berlin this summer, and meet there the Emperor Alexander and Ferdinand Joseph.

PRINCESS PASKIEWITCH, widow of the late Marshal, died on Tuesday, the thirteenth, in one of the hotels of Berlin.

ON WEDNESDAY WEEK, Lord John Russell, taking advantage of the Whitsuntide holidays, delivered his promised lecture to the Stroud Mutual Improvement Society, on the "Study of History."

THE "NOVITAS" says, that there are not fewer than ten editors of Mappa papers now in the goal of the Saladero, and that a number of others are undergoing imprisonment in various fortresses.

THE SARDINIAN TROOPS who have returned from the Crimea have received a perfect ovation at Turin.

SIR WILLIAM WILLIAMS, of Kars, is daily expected to arrive in England.

LETTERS FROM STOCKHOLM connect Prince Napoleon's approaching visit with designs upon the hand of Princess Charlotte Eugenie. The Princess is sixteen years of age.

THE GREEK GOVERNMENT protests against the indefinite occupation of Greece, as intimated in the Conference.

THE "TIMES" contradicts a statement currently received in India, that Hyderabad is to be annexed as soon as the Oude arrangements are complete.

JENNY LIND has written a letter to a lady of Philadelphia, in which she deeply sympathises with Mr. Barnum's financial troubles, and expresses her intention of placing a sum of money at his disposal.

AN ANCIENT PALACE has been unearthed at Capri, from beneath the ruins of a little cottage.

MIDDLE DR BRUNOW has recently been married to M. Magnus, a banker of Berlin.

LIEUTENANT COWELL, a young and very intelligent officer of Engineers, received the appointment of what is called "Governor" at Continental Congress, the Prince of Wales.

THE CHOLERA appears to be showing itself again in St. Petersburg. The mortality has risen of late from two or three to as many as twenty in a number of deaths that have already taken place in the present outbreak.

EARL GRANVILLE was the nobleman selected by her Majesty to deliver the Princess Royal in the first quadrille at the State Ball last week.

SIR EDMUND LYONS was on Monday presented with the freedom of the city.

BOCHSA, THE CELEBRATED HARPIST, died in Australia, on the first of January. Bochsa was a native of Switzerland, and over seventy years of age when he died.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION has finally closed its investigations.

DURING THE LATE GALES, at least twenty-five trees in Hyde Park were blown or less injured, some of them being actually torn up by the roots. In the Park also some of the trees were torn up.

A PICTURE OF THE ASSUMPTION, generally ascribed to Murillo, or at least to one of his best pupils, was lately stolen from the high altar of the church of Mendighuren, near Victoria.

THE GOVERNMENT has purchased the collection of Mr. Roach Smith, of Liverpool Street, for the sum of £2,000. The objects are now being transferred to the British Museum.

IT IS SUPPOSED BY SOME PARIS JOURNALS that by the first of August the Russian territory will be completely evacuated.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM has arrived. The Prince, it is said, will probably make a five weeks' stay in England.

THE EXPECTATION of the presence of the Queen of England at the marriage of the Princess Louisa with the Prince Regent of Baden, in September, grows much stronger.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA was prevented by a slight indisposition from going to meet the Empress Dowager of Russia, who was received at the frontier by Colonel Manteuffel and the members of the Russian Embassy.

A WINDOW OF STAINED GLASS is to be placed in the Rugby School Chapel, to the memory of the twenty-six Huguenots who have fallen in action, or who have died from illness brought on by the hardships of the Crimean campaign.

IF THE "WESER GAZETTE" is well informed, the health of the Pope is giving way, symptoms of dropsy becoming every day more and more evident. He has just entered his sixty-fifth year.

VAUXHALL GARDENS are to be opened on the Derby and Oaks nights.

THE SARDINIAN CLAIMS for Italian reform have encountered little or no sympathy with the French press—a symptomatic fact.

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF PITCAIRN'S ISLAND is about to be transferred to Norfolk Island, from whence the convict establishment has been withdrawn.

PREPARATIONS IN HONOUR of the expected arrival of between 200 and 300 wounded Crimean heroes, are in progress at the Royal Naval Hospital, Deal.

THE LYCEUM THEATRE has been let for three years to Mr. Conquest (the proprietor of the Eagle Tavern), who takes possession immediately after the close of the Italian Opera season.

THE OVERLAND MAIL for the Mediterranean, India, &c., will, in future, be made up and despatched from London on the evenings of the tenth and sixteenth of each month, instead of on the mornings of those days.

NOTWITHSTANDING the apparent good feeling existing between Russia and Sweden, it may be worth while to notice that another "scientific" expedition is about to set out from Helsingfors to Lapmarken, that part of Lapland which forms just now the bone of contention between the two countries.

PASSION WEEK did not pass over in the East without the customary brawling in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. A regular fight took place between the Greek and Armenian pilgrims, in which about twenty-five of either party were seriously wounded.

MR. WHITESIDE has publicly denied that the Derbyites endeavoured to persuade him to forego his motion on Kars, and says, "No such remonstrance was addressed to me by Lord Derby or Mr. Disraeli, but, on the contrary, the course I took had their uniform approval and encouragement."

A PROOF of the vast resources of the country is established in the fact that Messrs. Rothschild received, on account of the new loan, proffers amounting to not less than forty millions sterling, of which ten per cent., or four millions sterling, was actually paid in in cash.

LORD RANELAGH, we are told, only proposes to eject from the Carlton Club the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Ernest Bruce, Lord Sydney, and Lord Harrowby. Mr. Bentinck has given notice of an amendment which will include Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Lord Aberdeen, and the Duke of Buccleuch.

THE "RUSSIAN AIR" to which some verses were sung on the occasion of her Majesty's visit to the Crystal Palace, last week, was, in fact, the melody of "God Save the Czar." It is curious that this should be used as an English thanksgiving tune at the close of our war with Russia.

TWO WORKMEN lost their lives at the Thirlwood Colliery, Gloucestershire, last week. One, by rashly going into a pit full of foul air, and the second, in endeavouring to rescue him. A third also went in; but having taken proper precautions, he escaped.

THE RUSSIAN TROPHIES have been removed from the Dial Square of the Arsenal at Woolwich, and stored. The guns are to be cut up, and, after going through a certain analytical process, will be melted and mixed with British gun-metal for casting purposes.

LATE ACCOUNTS FROM THE PRINCIPALITIES correct the statement that the Hospodars were dismissed. Their period of office is about to expire, and provisional Caimacans will be appointed till the new system of government contemplated by the treaty of peace is arranged.

IT IS PROPOSED to unite the woods of Versailles with those of St. Germain; a project which would lead to the formation of one of the most magnificent forests in Europe.

EXCURSION TRIPS TO ST. PETERSBURG, 125*fr.* per head, are being organised at Paris.

THE TRIAL OF PALMER is reproduced by the Continental journals unabridged. THE COUNTESS WALEWSKI has received from the Queen of Spain the Grand Cordon of Maria Louisa, an Order which is only conferred upon noble ladies of the highest class.

A PROPOSAL for the erection in Paris of an immense column, surmounted by a statue of the Emperor, as a memorial to the army of the East, is before the French Senate.

THE ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER of the News-vendors' Benevolent Institution was held on Tuesday evening. Herbert Ingram, Esq., M.P., presided.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

The talk of the clubs—of what should be but of Palmer and the trial? And of scarcely anything else. Day after day the excitement continues; and as the water enters the reading-room, laden with the evening papers, it is set upon, and at once relieved of its burden by scores of infuriated members, thirsting for news. Of course there are hundreds of rumours, transparent, absurd, some even credible, current. The Attorney-General is said to have devoted eight nights' labour to bringing his opening speech to perfection, and the labour is admitted on all sides not to have been thrown away; for the oldest Old Bailey practitioners aver that such an oration, so minute, precise, untheatrical, and satisfactory, has never been heard within the walls of the Central Criminal Court. It is further stated that he took the greatest pains in getting up the chemical details of the case, and that he was in the habit of rehearsing this part of his speech to certain of his intimate friends, to see whether they could follow him and comprehend the gist of each sentence as he uttered it. Thanks to the courtesy of the Under-Sheriffs, I have twice been enabled to visit the Court, and my previous impressions have been much acted upon by the sight of Palmer himself. I have seen several celebrated criminals in that dock, among them Daniel Good, Hoeker, and the Mannings, and all were physiologically and physiognomically unpleasant. Palmer, on the contrary, appears to me to have rather an agreeable jolly expression of face. On the first day of the trial he appeared resolute and determined enough; the second time I saw him, was during the examination of Mr. Morley, the surgeon in the Leeds case, and when this gentleman stated his belief that the minute dose of strychnine might become so absorbed in the system as to be undiscoverable, I saw Palmer's ungloved hand wander up to his forehead, and pass slowly across his brow, as though to wipe off the cold sweat there gathering, and then play uneasily round his mouth. If it be permitted to enter upon such subjects (and as they are the current topics of conversation in every circle, why should they not be alluded to in print?) I rather doubt whether the counsel for the defence have been so judiciously chosen as they might have been.

Sir Fitzroy Kelly was, it is said, offered the leading brief, but his terms, 1,000 guineas, were considered too high. In all probability Sir Fitzroy did not want the case. His last criminal leadership, the Tawell business, having been so signal a failure, and the sobriquet "Apple-pip," being yet unforgettably.

Sergeant Sher, though a clever man, is no match for the prosecution counsel. Mr. Grove, Q.C., is supposed to be the most chemically scientific lawyer of the day; and Mr. Keenly is an acknowledged clever junior. But, if I am right, an English jury will not be nearly so much influenced by the chemical evidence as is anticipated; and the man to have retained as a leader for the defence, is not a sharp, querulous, badgering, gowling, effect-seeking, theatrical barrister, so much as a quiet, clear-headed, quick-seeing man, who, caring little for effect, and incapable of making a telling speech, is, above all others, the person to find out a flaw or weak point in his adversary's case, and to work and turn this flaw to his own advantage in the eyes of the jury—such a man as Mr. Knowles, Q.C., for instance. This, of course, is merely my own opinion. Of one thing I am certain, that every man engaged in the cause is exerting his utmost for the success of the side on which he is retained.

It was a fortunate thing for the peace of London that the rain came down in such torrents on Sunday last. I hear, from a reliable source, that upwards of 10,000 penny trumpets had been sold, through which rough music was to have been made. About five o'clock, I sauntered into the Gardens. A dispirited-looking crowd was huddled for shelter under the reeking trees, and that was all. No, a small boy, one of those wonderfully impudent gamins who adorn our streets, jumped upon the platform erected for the use of the band, blew a whistle, called out "I'm the band," and performed a *pas de double shuffle*, to the intense delight of the spectators! Lord Palmerston's equivocal denial of the interference on the part of the Scotch Members is scarcely credited. He denied that a deputation waited on him; but it is universally believed that the prohibition arose principally from a remonstrance and a threat on the part of the Lord Advocate and a few of his friends.

Barnum, the king of humbugs, is done up, broken, dollarless. A meeting was held at New York, to see what could be done for him, when he made a whining, canting speech. Jenny Lind is said to have written him a letter of condolence, promising to assist him. Another story is running round the clubs, to the effect that even now he is wide awake to the advantages of a speculation, that he has written to the Earl of Shaftesbury, inquiring whether it would be possible to induce the persecuted Italian Protestants, the Madiali, to visit America and be exhibited, and offering Lord Shaftesbury a commission on the profits, on condition he interested himself in the undertaking!

The proposed Exhibition of Art Treasures of the United Kingdom at Manchester, progresses steadily and favourably, and contributions continue to be received. The responsible manager will, I believe, be Mr. J. C. Deane, until recently the manager of the exhibitors' department of the Crystal Palace.

The amateur pantomime is in full rehearsal, and great things are expected of it. The application for tickets is absurd, and the committee could already have filled the house three times over. It has therefore been decided upon giving a second performance, and it is not improbable that the *troupe* will visit Manchester, Brighton, and one or two other provincial towns.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

A CONTROVERSIAL PAMPHLET*—RUSKIN'S "NOTES" ON THE ROYAL ACADEMY—LITERARY Gossip.

HENCEFORTH, let every man who plunges into print, be it in a shilling book, a three volume novel, or diary of travels, or a series of sermons, follow the noble example of Mr. Harrison Ainsworth, and have his portrait with his lithographed signature, and "yours very faithfully," prefixed to his work. Else, as far as regards authors, "Who's who in 1856" will be a mere absurdity and a sham. Everybody denies that everybody else ever wrote anything to which his name is attached, and for which he has had the credit and the publisher's cheque. Why, sir, some few years hence, when I shall have made that journey predestined for all of us, in a carriage decked with feathers, and when I shall have put on my allotted suit of turf and daisies, there will perhaps be found some one hardly enough to assert that the "Lounge" of the "Illustrated Times" was not Sir Edward Lytton Bul— (I suppress the change-ringing on these names), as is now well known to be the fact! I have for some time past had the pleasure of an acquaintance with Mr. James Hannay, a gentleman whom I have regarded with much reverence and esteem as the author of an excellent novel, *Septet* "Singleton Fontenoy," of a series of lectures showing much learning and research, *Light* "Satire and Satirists," and of various other agreeable works; and now, upon the authority of a letter published in that universally known and widely circulated literary authority, the "Downpatrick Recorder," I find that Mr. Hannay is a mere sham, and that the real author of these books is (Heaven save the mark!) a Mr. Percy Robinson! True, Mr. Hannay is known to nearly every literary man in London; true, Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, Mr. Bogue, and Messrs. Routledge, have received MSS. from him, and paid him for them; true, his character for honour and truthfulness has never been questioned; but how about Mr. Percy Robinson, the hero of Downpatrick? A few years ago, I went, out of curiosity, to hear a stark-staring lunatic proclaim that no such person as one Shakespeare ever existed, but that all the plays accredited to that myth were really the productions of divers fusty old monks; a week or two ago, I heard and read that Defoe never wrote "Robinson Crusoe," and now, before me lies a pamphlet of 88 pages, with the titulating title, "Who wrote the Waverley Novels?" The writer of this, a gentleman who devotes his initials only—W. J. F.—writes well and cleverly. So far he is worthy of a better classification than I have allotted to him; as to the ground of his opinion, your readers must judge for themselves. His supposition, then, is, not that the Waverley Novels were not written by Sir Walter Scott, but that in their production the Baronet received literary aid from other persons, more especially from two members of his own family—his brother, Thomas Scott, Paymaster of the 70th Re-

giment, and Thomas Scott's wife. The line of argument taken by "W. J. F." is interesting; he quotes a letter from Sir Walter to his brother, in which he says—"I know no one who possesses more power of humour, or perception of the ridiculous, than yourself," and begs him to become a contributor to their newly-established "Quarterly Review;" he quotes the fact, that Scott twice, once to the Prince Regent, and again to Sheridan, declared, "on his honour," that he was not the author of "Waverley;" he instances that much of the scenery in "Guy Mannering" was sketched from localities in the immediate vicinity of Mrs. Thomas Scott's birth-place, a part of the country in which Sir Walter Scott never was; he brings forward evidence to show, that while quartered with his regiment in Canada, when the conversation turned on the subject of the "Waverley Novels," Tom Scott would speak of his brother and of his compositions in *petto*, saying, "He is on the second volume of so-and-so, now. You will see so-and-so, next month;" and then, from an old "Army List," he quotes the names of a number of officers in the 78th and in other regiments, at that time stationed in Canada, all of which, either actually or with slight modifications, have been introduced into the "Waverley Novels." Of course, all these authorities and quotations are to be taken but at what they are worth, and, moreover, should be read with their connecting letter-press, and the record of the author's own feelings on the subject. The pamphlet is, however, without doubt, an interesting one, and worth perusal by all lovers of literature.

Mr. Ruskin has this year again favoured the public with his ideas of the principal pictures in the Academy and the Water Colour Exhibitions, in a pamphlet of some forty-eight pages, preceded by a Preface, which is, perhaps, the most interesting part of the brochure. The first point treated of in the Preface is the difference between anonymous and acknowledged criticism; and Mr. Ruskin advances his own signature to the "Notes" as an answer to the cavillings of those persons who attributed the fault-finding which characterised his last year's pamphlet to "hostility;" and he goes on to say, "One would think, to hear them, that there was no right or wrong in art; that every opinion which men formed of it was dictated by prejudice and expressed in passion; that all praise was treacherous—all rebuke malignant—and silence itself merely a pause between flattery and slander." Mr. Ruskin further assures his readers, that the "Notes" are not written carelessly, nor looked upon by their author as things of little importance; but that, on the contrary, they are regarded by him as one of the chief works which he has yet to do. So much for the Preface. The "Notes" themselves are simply the records of unbounded delight. Such an exhibition has never yet been seen, a true and consistent school of art is at last established in the Royal Academy of England, pre-Raphaelitism now has the day, animosity has changed into emulation, and astonishment into sympathy. Everybody paints well now. Since the appearance of the first "Notes," and incited, doubtless, by the admonitions therein administered to them, David Roberts and J. M. W. Turner have gone to work in earnest, and now really paint decently! *Idem*, Mr. Lewis; *idem*, Messrs. Dobson, Lee, O'Neill, Hannah, Hughes, Faed, &c. Mr. Holman Hunt's "Seaport" has five pages of admirably written criticism, principally eulogistic, devoted to it; while of Mr. Millais it is said "Titan himself could hardly head him." And again, "I am not sure whether he may not be destined to surpass all that has been done in figure-painting, as Turner did all past landscape." The writing of the "Notes," however, is not perfectly level, the language and expressions being occasionally strained and hyperbolic. Here is an example:—"April Love" (A. Hughes). "Exquisite in every way; lovely in colours, most subtle in the quivering expression of the lips and sweetness of the tender face; shaken like a leaf by winds upon its dew, and heaving back into place!"

There is a degree of "Fanny Fern" about this!

I was not aware that the father of Sir John Dean Paul ("the fraudulent banker," as Madame Tussaud calls him) had made an appearance as an author. On looking over some volumes of "The Sporting Review," I found there some contributions "by Sir John Dean Paul, Bart." They are tales of the horse, written in verse after the manner of Crabbe, and quite equal to many of Crabbe's productions. They are entitled "The Doctor's Horse," "The Coach-Horse," "The Cob," "The Hunter," and "The Race Horse," the two last being of some length. Here are some lines from "The Hunter"—

"In the world's college 'twas a high degree
That lackland took; a senior wrangler he!
He knew the moment well; he mark'd the hour
When truth succeeds—when humbug has its power;
And when it fails, when boasting is in vain,
Then, like his horse, his tongue must feel the rein;
And he was one of those whose sharp-edged tools
Find their keen passage to the purse of fools."

You will understand why I have quoted these lines, but they are not a fair specimen of Sir John's muse, which, here and there, soars to an equal height with that of Crabbe. These poems appeared in the years 1841-42. In "The Sporting Review" for January, 1841, there is a plate of "The Paddock" (mare and foal visited by a lady and gentleman, with little dogs), from a drawing by Sir John. It is very good. Leech was etching in this review at the time; but he has wonderfully improved since then. In "Punch," a short time since, he had a sketch of "them stinking violets." This joke I have heard years ago; but in turning over the before-named "Sporting Review," I lighted upon the following from "A Month in Leicestershire: by Nimrod" (June, 1841). "On our return from the fight, met some ladies violet-gathering. Oh! those 'stinking violets,' as Dick Knight calls them; how I hated the sight of them, when I had some good hunters in my stable."

Après of sporting subjects, I have seen a very capital little book, called "Hints to Horsemen, Showing how to Make Money by Horses," by a very competent authority on such matters, a writer well known under the *nom de plume* of "Harry Heever." The book is not, as might be anticipated, written with the view of putting one up to "dogges," "tips," or "rigs" of the sporting world; it treats more of the breeding and rearing of horses, and its information is conveyed in a thoroughly practical and business-like manner. The author is discursive in his subject, treating of the yards of London dealers, and the stables of country sportsmen; and the tone throughout is sensible and modest, besides being utterly free from the professional slang which would seem almost indispensable to such a work.

Mr. Charles Dickens has lately received a high eulogium from Ludwig Storch, one of the most celebrated authors of young Germany, who, in the preface to his novel, "Aus Eimen Bergstadt," says that the province of the novelist is to show his *dramatis persona* and their characters from infancy, and to let them grow up under all the surrounding influences which make them what they eventually become, in contradistinction to the drama, where the author should produce his creations in their then phase of existence. This, says Mr. Storch, was the plan of the old English novelists of the last century, and though now-a-days generally disregarded, it has been revived by Mr. Dickens in "David Copperfield," "a master work, which cannot be sufficiently extolled."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THERE has been scarcely any novelty in theatrical circles during the past week. The only event really worth chronicling has been the opening of Sadler's Wells with an excellent opera *troupe*, under the direction of Mr. Howard Glover. The "Bohemian Girl" was played on Monday night, with Mr. Sims Reeves as Thaddeus, Mrs. Sims Reeves as Arline, and Miss Poole, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Delavanti in the other principal characters. The reception of Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves was most enthusiastic, and their principal *marceaur* were rapturously encored, as was "The heart bowed down," by Mr. Weiss. The orchestra and chorus were both excellent, and reflect great credit on Mr. Howard Glover. At the fall of the curtain, the composer, Mr. Balfe, was loudly summoned, and experienced a complete ovation on his entrance.

An "infant prodigy," in the person of a Master Bundy, has appeared at the Haymarket in the burlesque of "Tom Thumb." This little boy displays all the unpleasant precocity of those who have preceded him, but his voice is so childish as to be almost inaudible beyond the stalls.

A new three-act romantic modern drama, from the pen of Mr. Watts Phillips (his first dramatic essay), is in rehearsal at the Adelphi.

Mr. and Mrs. Keeley have been playing in "Jack Sheppard," "Your Life in Danger," and "Betsy Baker," at the Surrey.

Miss Louisa Howard, formerly of the Lyceum and Olympic Theatres, has lately been married to a connection of Mr. Baron Platt.

I submit a capital letter from my unknown correspondent, "Trois Etoiles," on the new play at the Olympic:—

"DEAR MR. LOUNGER.—Wet weather and a broken engagement drove me last night into the Olympic Theatre, and the trouble proved a pleasure. As you have twice permitted me to take exception to Mr. Wigan's *mise en scene*, will you allow me to say, or say it for me, that the scenery in 'Retribution' is just what it always should be—ample and rich enough to support the illusion, but not so splendid as to destroy our pleasure in the acting or to detract from the interest of the play. My old friend the striped shawl did not make its appearance the whole night, not even in the afterpiece. A gay crimson table cover, containing enough false principles in its pattern to drive the Marlborough House folks distracted, but a real one for all that, replaced my dingy acquaintance.

"As to 'Retribution,' it's a very exciting play, which one could fancy had been the dream of an author who had read odd chapters out of a score of French novels and supped off hot pork-chops and cold vital patties after an evening with the 'Corsican Brothers.' The 'Times' critic, I observe, said something about the audience finding themselves in a peculiar moral atmosphere at the fall of the curtain, and expressing their disapprobation accordingly; but as people go to the play to recreate their minds, and not to nurture their morals, I think the cause of the losses must be laid to the hurried and clumsy nature of the last act, with its duel so provocative of comparison with another famous one.

"I have fallen in love with Mr. Wigan's debutante, who needs only a little less action with her neck and shoulders to be completely graceful. Were I acquainted with her, I would hint that she should drop the 'p' in Baptiste, as a French lady would. Miss Herbert is the most hopeful actress on the London stage; for in her are united great intelligence, much dramatic talent, youth and beauty. Ah! if I were Millais, I would paint her in my next picture in her pure white silk dress; if I were Marchetti, I would make a superb bust of her; and if I were Munro, I would carve a lovely madonna from her profile. Were I an author, I would write no end of charming pieces for her; and provided she were willing, and I had not one already, I would make her Madame Etolles."

"Friday night, May 16, 1856." "TROIS-ETOILES."

THREEPENNY PIECES have been found so peculiarly useful in Manchester that, in compliance with a memorial from that city, a special coinage has been made.

COLLIERS' STRIKE IN SCOTLAND.—The miners in Scotland are on strike, and for their own sakes we very much regret it. Last week, special constables were sent for to Quarter Colliery (Hamilton) as a deputation of stranger colliers had taken possession of the pits, and would not allow the men who were willing to work to go down. The same system of compulsory prevention was adopted at Carlin, where something like a regular row took place. On Friday, however, the Carlin men were allowed to go down, under the protection of a posse of constables. This style of intimidation is not likely to obtain for the colliers much public sympathy.

THE SEPARATE TREATY.—The "Gazette de Cologne," the "Gazette d'Elberfeld," the "Gazette de la Bourne," and the German journals generally, continue to express their indignation concerning the supplementary treaty of April 15, which is declared to indicate a want of confidence in Russia. The following, according to the "Austrian Gazette," is the real motive which led France, England, and Austria to sign the separate treaty:—"Different explanations have been given of this treaty. We think that they should be simply sought for in the causes of disturbance which the *hotti-oumayom* has created in Turkey, and which may lead to the depopulation of the Ottoman empire. The Mussulman population, in fact, particularly in the Asiatic provinces, are very much irritated against the concessions made to the Christians. A pretender or an ambitious pacha might easily profit by these elements of revolt, and if the fanaticism of the Christians becomes opposed to that of the Mussulmans, the existence of Turkey might become compromised. It is with a view to prevent these eventualities, and to secure to the Porte the assistance of Europe, that the separate treaty has doubtless been concluded. It may be conceived that Russia would not sign it, because she sets no great value on the integrity of Turkey; and as to the Porte, it has not signed it, because it would be so doing have itself expressed, in an authentic document, doubts of its vitality. Prussia confined herself to her accustomed neutrality."

THE FATE OF A DESERTER.—A sergeant of Zouaves, the sergeant tailor of his regiment (serving in the Crimea), deserted to the Russians, and set up at Simpheropol, where he found abundant custom at great profit. He found means to send a letter to the corporal tailor of the regiment, informing him of his good fortune, and advising him to come and join his comrade as speedily as possible. The corporal listened to the tempter, and started off at night to cross the Tchernaya. In order to make sure of his way, he was obliged to hide himself till the dawn, and with the first light of day he rose from his bed among the rushes, and ran towards the enemy's sentries. A quick-eyed chasseur spied the Zouave as he fled across the open, and fired with such accuracy that the unfortunate wretch fell to the ground with a broken thigh. In that state he lay on the neutral ground, between the riflemen, for two long days. If he tried to crawl towards the French, the Russian riflemen opened fire on him; if he turned towards the enemy, the enfilade perils, his countrymen, sent their balls around him. It is not known how long the miserable being endured this agony,—the raging thirst, the frost by night, the sun by day,—nor can it be ascertained whether he died from his wound, or if his death was accelerated by some merciful bullet; but when the armistice was signed, his body was found in a hollow in the ground, where he had rolled for shelter, and even the discovery of a considerable sum of money, which he had stolen, did not reconcile his comrades to the spectacle. They were moved to tears as they buried the weatherbeaten corpse.

INSPECTION OF HUSSARS FROM THE CRIMEA BY HER MAJESTY.

On the morning of May 12, her Majesty announced an intention to visit the Royal Dockyard, Portsmouth, in order to witness the debarkation of the men of the 8th Hussars. The *Oncida*, which brought the troops from the Crimea, had arrived only the day before, and the authorities were taken by surprise at this sudden announcement. We are not called upon, however, to commiserate with the "authorities" on this surprise, especially as it does not seem to have interfered at all with the arrangements necessary to fulfil the august desire of the Queen, to her Majesty's own satisfaction, and to the gratification of the returned soldiers. Thousands of people had congregated upon the Common Hard as the time for her Majesty's arrival drew nigh. A guard of honour was furnished by the 22nd Foot, and the 1st Surrey Militia kept the ground to the parade.

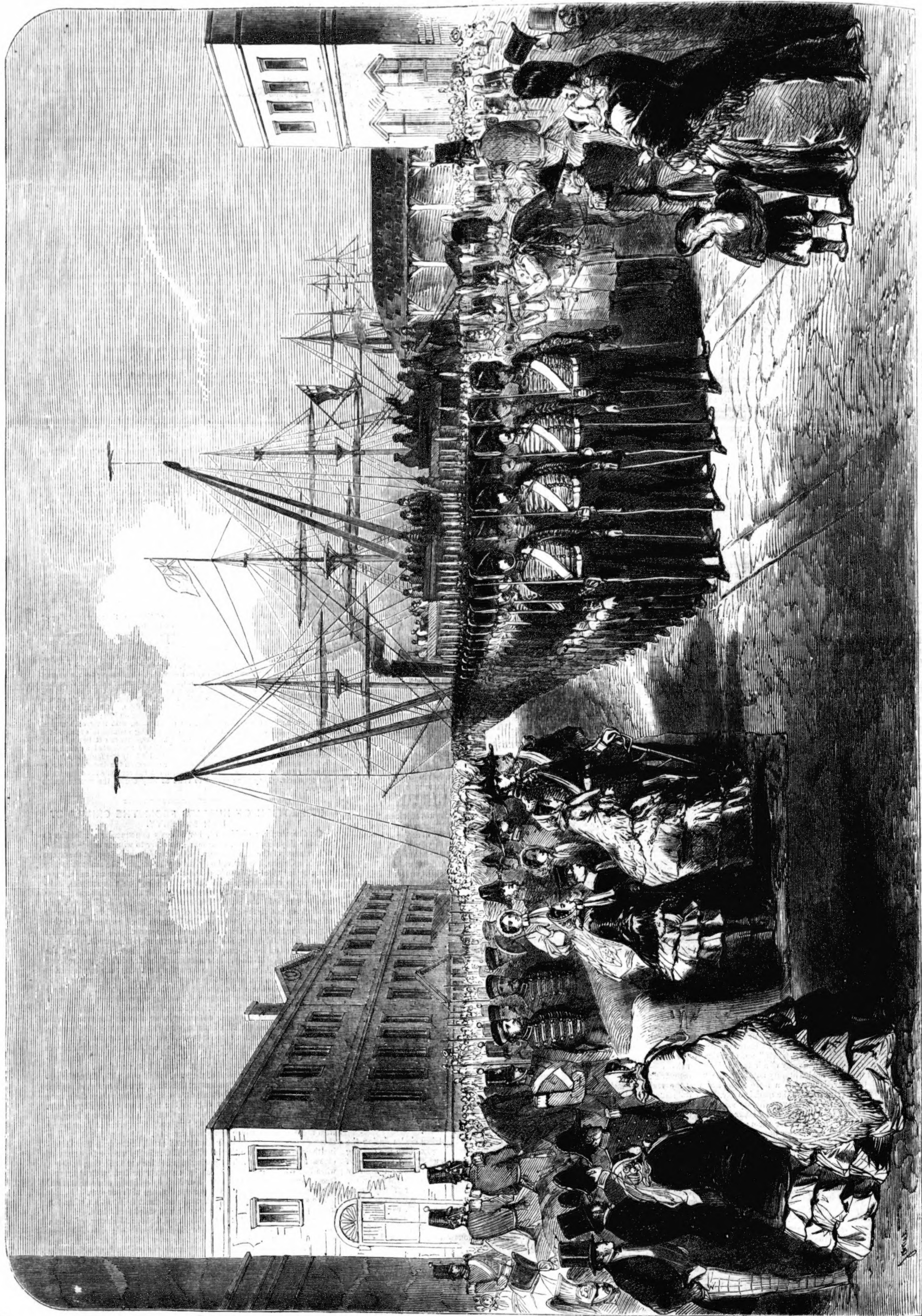
At six o'clock the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal, with the younger members of the Royal Family, arrived, and were received with a grand salute from the fleet. Her Majesty landed at the King's Stairs, and was met by a most brilliant staff, by whom she was at once attended to the spot where the Hussars were stationed. They were drawn up exactly as they had landed, in their worn clothes, long beads, and with their forage bags, &c. 196 infantry invalids, who had arrived from the Crimea in the *Lener* on Sunday, were also on the ground, with seventeen men from the 17th Lancers (who came with the 8th Hussars), and a number of sick in omnibuses, on their way to the hospital. The Queen took a position on the stage near the clock tower, and the Hussars marched past in slow time, the band playing. Then came the 17th Lancers, the whole being brought up by the invalids on stretchers.

The Queen spoke to several of the men, and it was plain from the expression of her Majesty's countenance that they were all viewed with great emotion. The wounded (who were drawn up on either side of their more fortunate comrades) especially engaged the attention of the Royal party. Her Majesty went among them, addressing here and there a kind, encouraging question. The cheering was vociferous, and not least hearty from the omnibuses which contained the sick. As they passed by they shouted and cheered as if their ills were all cured, at the same time thrusting their heads out from the vehicles, and frantically waving fragments of caps and bits of shakos. The proceedings became most affecting, however, when two poor fellows were borne by on stretchers, with their pale faces turned towards the Queen. Her Majesty evidently was much moved at this spectacle, and followed it to some distance with her eyes.

The Royal party quitted Portsmouth at about half-past six, when the troops were marched back to the *Oncida*, and sailed for Ireland.

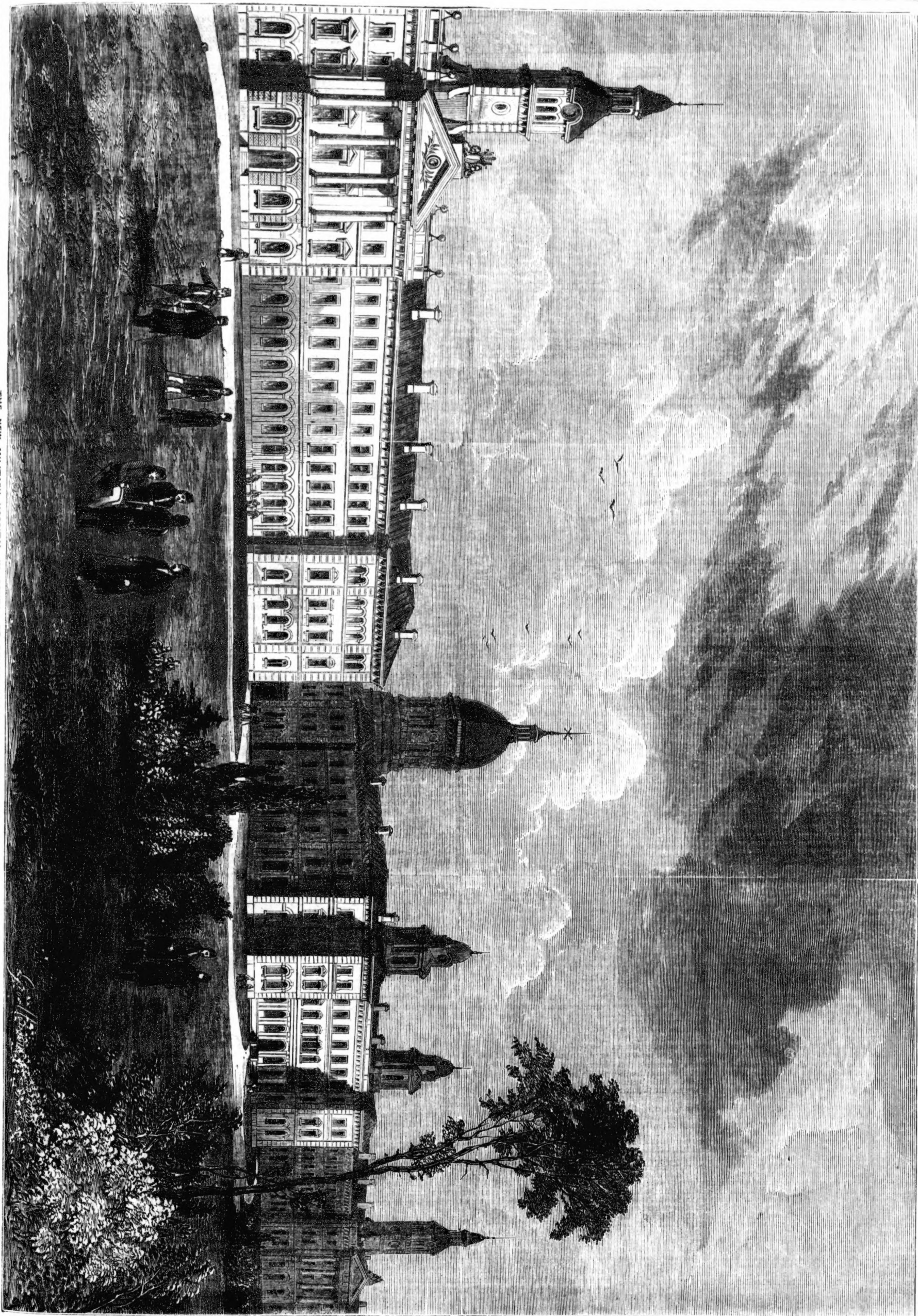
The 8th Hussars left Eug and in April, 1854, 293 strong, of whom forty-two had been previously sent to England invalided; sixty-eight died of diseases, seven died of wounds, nineteen were killed in action, and one deserted. 250 horses were originally with the regiment, of which only twenty-nine have returned home. Forty-three were killed in the Balaklava charge, two at Bouljank, and one at Inkermann. The rest died of disease, neglect, &c. The *Oncida* was the only transport which had been engaged with the enemy.

* Who wrote the Waverley Novels? Eppingham Wilson.



INSPECTION OF HUSSARS ON THEIR ARRIVAL FROM THE CRIMEA BY THE QUEEN IN PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.

THE NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.



THE NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION AT HAMBLE NEAR SOUTHAMPTON

ON THEIR ARRIVAL FROM THE 'CRIMES' BY THE QUEEN IN PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.

THE NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL AT HAMBLE.

WHATEVER may have been the result of the late war in a political point of view, there is no doubt that one great advantage will be derived from the insight it afforded into the defective working of many of our military institutions—exhibiting the absolute inadequacy of the barracks and hospital establishments of the country to support any pressure upon them in time of war, or for maintaining a due efficiency in time of peace. Her Majesty has constantly shown the kindest solicitude for those who, after having the combined horrors of war, pestilence, and mismanagement, have returned with mutilated limbs and shattered health. We find that the first public act of her Majesty, after the official conclusion of peace, is the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new military hospital, which, from its magnitude and appliances, will be the first of its class in Europe.

The site of this establishment has been admirably chosen. It is distant only six miles from Southampton, and about twelve from Portsmouth. It is within five miles of the Botley and Southampton stations of the South-Western Railway, and is thus brought into direct communication not only with the metropolis, but with the camp at Aldershot, and with the great naval and military station of Portsmouth.

The land purchased by the Government for this object consists of 100 acres. The situation, besides being surrounded with exquisite scenery, is by all reputed healthy. The building itself will be of immense magnitude; the frontage alone (facing south-west), is proposed to extend upwards of 1,400 feet. The main block is to consist of a centre and two wings, each three storeys high. The centre it is intended to appropriate as a hospital for sick and invalided officers, the two wings for soldiers, the whole having accommodation for 1,000 patients, divided into wards of various sizes. The basement will be devoted to the use of inferior officers and servants of the establishment. Another part of the establishment, but quite distinct from the hospital, will be appropriated as barracks for convalescents, which will be constructed to accommodate 1,000 men, while a museum and an anatomical theatre will be erected in a convenient part of the building. Detached will be a lunatic asylum and chapels for both Protestants and Catholics.

A jetty has been thrown out into the Southampton Water, a distance of 1,000 feet, on which a tram-road is laid for facilitating the landing of troops, and the transmission of supplies. In the rear new roads are being formed leading to Botley, Gosport, Southampton, &c. The whole pile of building is expected to be completed in about three years, and the cost it is understood will be about £200,000.

The ceremony of laying the first stone of this magnificent pile was very imposing. The jetty was decorated by an archway of evergreens, surmounted by a crown. The entire length was covered with scarlet cloth, and at the land end was a rostrum platform for the presentation of the address from the Mayor and corporation of Southampton. The ground was entirely lined with detachments of military, which reached from the jetty, about a quarter of a mile, to the spot at which the ceremony took place.

At the end of a covered pathway leading from the spot where hung the foundation stone, two tents were erected, the one forming a reception and refreshment tent for the Royal family, and the other a retiring room for her Majesty. These were most elegantly furnished and ornamented with plants and bouquets of the choicest flowers. A large tent for the reception of the troops after the ceremony was also erected towards the back of the whole, in which was prepared a substantial dinner of roast beef, plum-pudding, and ale. A grand stand, for the accommodation of visitors, was quite filled with spectators.

At a few minutes after eleven o'clock, the guns of her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, which was moored a short distance from the landing-place, made known that the Royal standard had appeared in sight. Shortly after, the Royal yacht *Fairy*, accompanied by the *Elfin*, brought up off the jetty. After some little delay, caused by the boisterous state of the weather, her Majesty landed, accompanied by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Princess Royal, and the Prince of Wales, and, under a salute from the guns of the *Arrogant* and the squadron of gun-boats anchored off the shore, her Majesty walked along the jetty to the platform, where the address of the Corporation of Southampton was presented to her Majesty.

The Queen then proceeded to lay the foundation-stone in the manner and with the ceremonial prescribed for such occasions.

After the ceremony the Queen retired to the marquee erected for her reception, and after passing through the tent in which the dinner for the troops was provided, returned at once on board the Royal yacht, and immediately left for Osborne, the guns firing a Royal salute, and the men of the *Arrogant* again manning yards.

We regret to add that the ceremony did not pass off without a fatal accident. As the gun-boats in Southampton Water were saluting after the stone had been laid, one of the guns of the *Hardy* went off accidentally, killing two seamen and injuring several others.

FATAL EXPLOSION AT WOOLWICH.—Despite the caution so strictly enforced in Woolwich Arsenal, another accident has occurred, far more deplorable in its results than anything witnessed there for many years past. The accident originated in a temporary shed about ten feet square, in which the process of preparing the detonating composition with which percussion caps are charged, was carried on. A man named Plack, foreman of the department, and a boy named Shylock, were in this shed about three o'clock on Saturday afternoon, when a tremendous explosion occurred, killing them both instantaneously. Two others, Taylor a carpenter, and Rooke, a labourer, were employed near the spot and met a similar fate; the former was literally shattered to pieces. The right leg was blown off at the hip, and discovered on the roof of the departmental offices of Captain Boxer, about 100 feet distant. Another man received a severe blow from a portion of the woodwork of the shed, the roof being hurled into the air, and falling about 250 yards distant into the Thames. The adjoining shed was demolished, and every window in the vicinity destroyed. Beyond these accidents, seven other workmen were taken to the hospital, one of whom, named Richardson, has since died.

THE CHICKEN HORSE FAIR.—The horse fair held on the 30th ult., at MacKenzie's Farm, proved an utter failure. The Russians are so sure of being able to provide themselves with horses for next to nothing, that they are in no hurry to bid till the time of departure draws nigh, and the scrow is put upon the English. Some hundreds of officers went up to the fair, and there was a considerable attendance of Russian officers on the ground, but they came to look, and not to buy. Their largest offers ranged from £4 to £6. In one instance, however, £40 was given for a fine English mare. Horses and ponies were at a ruinous discount. Some mules and fat animals were sold for 5s. and 10s. a-piece. Some had cost probably fifty and others one hundred times as much. Three mules were sold for 7s. 6d., and it is reported that fourteen were sold for £1. Our officers were greatly annoyed at the offers which were made to them. In one instance a gentleman had sent up his horse in charge of his servant, with a card, marked in French, "The price of this horse is £50." A Russian officer took the card, scratched out the 0, and coolly offered five imperials for the animal. What is to be done with the ponies, extra chargers, and fat animals, no one knows, unless private speculators do something for the army.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA'S CORONATION.—It has been determined that Lord Granville, the President of the Council, shall proceed upon an extraordinary mission to St. Petersburg, on the occasion of the Emperor of Russia's coronation. This appointment of Lord Granville does not in any manner whatever affect the mission of Lord Wodehouse to St. Petersburg.

REVIEW OF MILITIA BY HER MAJESTY.—The Queen has again evinced her interest in military affairs, by a review of the Militia quartered in Portsmouth garrison, previous to their distribution. Tuesday was appointed for the ceremony to take place on Southsea Common. The weather was beautiful, and some 30,000 people of all ranks were collected on the occasion. At about half-past five o'clock the Queen and Prince Consort embarked from Osborne. On approaching the fleet at Spithead the senior officer's ship opened a general Royal salute, with yards manned. The garrison battery also saluted, as did the flagships in Portsmouth harbour, with their crews on the yards, and every line dressed in colours; the crews cheered, and the scene altogether was even more animated than at the late review, or any other recent occasion. At the King's Stairs the Royal party disembarked, and were received on the landing-place by Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, Rear-Admiral Superintendent Martin, and a guard of honour of the Royal Marine Artillery. On reaching the ground the troops received the Queen with the general royal salute, the bands playing "God save the Queen." Prince Albert mounted a charger, then accompanied the Queen along the line. His Royal Highness wore the uniform of a general officer. The staff followed the Royal party, who, having thus cursorily inspected the men, returned to an enclosed space in rear of the Royal standard post, and took up a position to watch the evolutions—all of which were performed with remarkable precision. At their conclusion the Queen returned to the place of embarkation. The Royal yacht left the harbour for Osborne at about a quarter past six o'clock.

Literature.

Diamonds and Dust. A Novel. 3 vols. Newby.

AMONG other new works of fiction now in the hands of the reading public, the novel before us has excited considerable interest. Without professing to concur in the opinion of a celebrated French philosopher, that more is to be learned from this class of books, than from those of a graver character, we certainly are not wanting in sympathy with the writer who said that life had few pleasurable enjoyments than sitting at the chimney corner after a well-spent day, and reading an interesting romance. Having been told that in the case of Sir E. B. Lytton not being the author of "Diamonds and Dust," the reading public were to be congratulated on the advent of a new writer of equal ability, we opened the book with curiosity. We found in its pages many clever sketches of life, but almost nothing of that thought and observation, brilliancy and artistic skill, which such an encomium led us to expect. As it is probable, however, that many of our readers may consider "Diamonds and Dust" worthy of a perusal at their convenience, we will meanwhile attempt to give them, by way of whet, some idea of its contents and character.

The scene opens on a May evening, about sunset, near Temple Bar, when people are hurrying westward from the busy city, leaving their avocations behind, but none looking towards the glory of the setting sun; because, says the author, "it would not pay." None of them therefore care to mark the daily miracle of sunset.

"That crowd of faces, anxious, supercilious, haughty, indifferent, or utterly blank and commonplace, which last make the vast majority, keeps hurrying on."

"Here and there a few move briskly in a contrary direction—note a few of them; they have something remarkable about them. There are two, for instance, different in stature, dress, and gait, from each other; but, in both there is a quick intelligent glance; in both the same pale, yet not unhealthy features; and there is about them a general stamp of something distinct from the vulgar crowd. They are men of the daily press, hurrying to different newspaper offices. Their labours are about to commence, at the moment that those of the great crowd are ceasing. But why do they wear a certain air of superiority? why that bearing of somewhat supercilious confidence, with which they cleave their way through the counter-current? It is because they are a day in advance of the general herd, both high and low, and they know it. That which all that crowd will read as exciting news to-morrow morning, is, even now, stale to them—they know it already."

The reader is gradually carried in imagination to the interior of the Temple, and through courts and alleys into the chambers of Henry Clayton, a young man who, though called to the Bar, is intended by nature for a poet. He is just setting off to the country, to join a party of those with whom he had been at school. The favourite of that schoolboy coterie, Lord Danecroft, has, at the age of twenty-four, somewhat unexpectedly obtained possession of his ancestral estates; and one of his first thoughts is, to gather his old companions around him, for a golden fortnight.

Danecroft Manor is, we are informed, a fine place in its way; and thither, as its owner's guest, come Mr. Brandon, who aspires to senatorial distinction; and Mr. Merlin, the author of "A New System of Metaphysics;" and Mr. Royston, the Liverpool millionaire; and Mr. Clayton, the celebrated author of "Aspirations and Regrets;" and, lastly, Mr. Lonsdale, the aristocratic painter, whose extraordinary pictures in the exhibition of the Royal Academy had led Mr. Ruskin and others to modify their new theories of art.

Two young ladies are, moreover, present at this re-union, and lend some degree of interest to the party. One of these, Lord Danecroft's sister, the Lady Ethel, the heroine of this series of sketches, is portrayed as an extraordinary woman, and something more. Indeed, she rival Diana Vernon in equestrian grace, rides a magnificent bright bay mare, called "Sultana," cries "bravo" when anything is said that jumps with her humour, and "breaks into dazzling bursts of eloquent contempt for all existing institutions, and brilliant pictures of a possible future, in which the name of want or vice could only be a vague tradition." Well, this chosen band of male and female enthusiasts—for such they are—having nothing else to do, are all anxiety to "teach" the "poor ignorant, Ignorance and Prejudice," but, meantime, enjoy themselves without stint. While lunching under some old cedar-trees, they hold very fine, but most inconclusive, conversations on social and political subjects; and indulge in much talk about regenerating the world, and all that sort of thing, without, however, expressing anything like sympathy with the great body of the people.

We need hardly trouble our readers with any of those passages, in which the aspiring author of "Diamonds and Dust" makes somewhat painful efforts to pass for an original thinker, and where he is not a little bombastic when attempting to be brilliant. But for the benefit of such hapless wights as never see anything of lordly halls like Danecroft, except from the outside of the gate, we extract a specimen of the criticism which their inmates are represented as condescending to bestow on some of our living poets:—

"Do you think Tennyson deserves to rank among our greatest poets?" said Lady Ethel, addressing Merlin.

"Passages of his poetry may be placed in the very highest rank," replied Merlin. "Some of his shorter poems, too, are charming, as entire works. His 'Sleeping Beauty' has much of that delightful quaintness that we have just been speaking of; and in his 'Locksley Hall' are passages of power almost unapproachable in their peculiar style."

"Who has read Alexander Smith?" said Miss Brereton.

"Oh, all of us, I suppose," said Clayton; "he has said some fine things; but his continual struggle to be always great, is detrimental to his style; his longer poems want more light and shade."

"He is of the same school as Gerald Massey," said Royston. "Both are rising men, if they choose to rise; and all men following their true vocation may rise if they will; it is only those who have mistaken their mission that struggle upward in vain."

"Both these men," said Clayton, "are of the true stuff that poets are made of—they only want an arena, and the will, to become truly poets, not only in fitful snatches, but in the highest sense of art—yet, that art must be achieved by labour, like all other art."

The author next treats us to a description of an electioneering adventure, which he seems (God help him!) to think a mere holiday excursion. A borough in the neighbourhood happens to be vacant, and one of the Danecroft party figures as a candidate. The contest, from first to last, is described in a way that will rather amuse, and raise a smile on the countenances, of those who have taken part in such affairs. The whole scene, in truth, is as unlike life as possible; and, besides, we have a duke ranged on one side, and an earl on the other, both apparently as utterly unconscious of certain regulations against elections being interfered with by peers, as the author is of the proper "titles of courtesy" accorded to their younger sons. The Danecroft candidate is, of course, successful; and his opponent is represented as too great a fool to deserve a worse character.

Meanwhile dark shadows are gathering around the lordly house of Danecroft. It appears that the career of "my lord's" father has been at once disreputable and mysterious. Even the title-deeds of the estate have been lost at a gambling-table, and the awkward fact of his marriage certificate bearing a date subsequent to that of his successor's birth, enables the departed lord's younger son, a military man of dissipated habits, to get possession. This younger brother of Lord Danecroft brings to the Manor such companions, male and female, as suit his humour, and Danecroft sees a very different sight from that with which the story opens.

Lord Danecroft and his sister, the Lady Ethel, now go to Italy, their mother's country, and discover, not only that there had been a private marriage in time to render his Lordship legitimate; not only that the person who had ejected them, was not their father's son, but what was more unexpected, that such a distinction belonged to Henry Clayton, who figures conspicuously throughout. All now, of course, goes smoothly. They return to England, regain the estates, and commence marrying and giving in marriage with so much earnestness, that when the third volume closes, we have no fewer than six newly-wedded pairs assembled beneath the cedars at Danecroft.

We are aware that we have conveyed little idea of the story, the fact being that the author is much in the position of Canning's knife-grinder, having no story to tell. In trying his "pretence hand," he has got into all sorts of errors, improbabilities, and impossibilities, and we must add that on all questions of public interest he has displayed much more zeal than knowledge. We have already alluded to the supposition of Sir E. Bulwer-Lytton being the writer; but can assure our readers that it is to "The Caxtons" and "My Novel" what "Moreduin" is to "Ivanhoe" and

"The Betrothed." This novel might, indeed, be more properly characterised as a water-colour imitation of those celebrated works where Mr. Disraeli used to compound of politics and fiction. But without doubting that the author of "Diamonds and Dust" may, by perseverance, hammer into something like excellence, we must guard ourselves by adding, that between him and the author of "Coningsby" there is a wide gulf which few men can cross.

Tennyson's "Maud" Vindicated. By R. J. MANN, M.D., F.R.S., &c. London: Jarrold and Sons.

THOSE who have read, with any degree of attention, our remarks on Tennyson's poetry in general, and "Maud" in particular (No. 9), will understand full well that we think there is little need for any such treatise as that before us. The author, however, being of a different opinion, goes into the matter, and produces, in explanation and vindication of the Laureate's latest work, an essay somewhat laboured in style, and containing more than an average amount of common-place criticism, from which we select a couple of the most passable extracts.

"Maud is a drama—that is, an action—in which an exquisite tale of love and sorrow is revealed in a form that bears upon itself the impress of once consummate art, and of simple nature. The dramatic persona of the action—there is but one individual who is ever brought forward in it in person—exhibits his story through the mental influences its several incidents work in him, and this exhibition is made, not directly and connectedly, but, as it were, incidentally and interruptedly, through a series of distinct scenes, which are varied as the circumstances involved. It is in this peculiarity of the poem—the one person revealing to the reader his own sad and momentous history, by fits and starts, which are themselves but so many impulsive after-effects naturally called forth from a mind strung to the pitch of keen poetic sensibility—that its absolute originality and the surpassing skill of the Laureate are displayed."

"The war-passages in 'Maud,' if fairly considered, amount to no more than this: as the open and declared war, which is waged at intervals between nation and nation, is far less base and horrible than the secret and masked war of personal violence and fraud, which is waged unceasingly between man and man, it may possibly be that the All-mighty and All-wise Designer of Creation has intended it to be a beneficial escape for fierce humours, which turn human life into a fever, when they are pent up and accumulative. The acute eruptive disorder, which cleanses the system through the surface, is to be preferred to the chronic disease which brews ever-increasing mischief in the inner recesses and channels."

But we must say that between the author of "Diamonds and Dust" and the author of "Coningsby" there is a wide gulph, which the former is not likely soon to cross.

An Introduction to Entomology. By KIRBY and SPENCE. Longmans.

THE object of the authors of this book, in first giving it to the world, was to introduce to others that branch of study which they had pursued with so much diligence, and had found so delightful. The work, which has long been regarded as one of established reputation, has now reached a seventh edition, and is published at one-sixth of its former price, so as to bring it within the reach of all who are desirous of making themselves acquainted with the natural history of the insect world.

Though compressed, by smaller type, into one volume, it contains everything that appeared in the sixth edition—which, again, included much more than the five preceding; so that, while the work increases in material and value, the price becomes "small by degrees, and beautifully less."

The work, as we have said, is one of established reputation; and we do not hesitate to recommend it to such of our readers as desire to make themselves familiar with the subject to which it relates.

The Annals of British Legislation. Part I. Edited by L. LEVI. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THIS work is intended to deal with the contents of blue books and other parliamentary documents in such a way as to render the information popular. Correctness and impartiality are chiefly aimed at, and the publication is well calculated to be useful to those public men whose pressing duties prevent them mastering voluminous papers.

June: a Book for the Country. By H. T. STANTON. Longmans.

THIS little book is written to show how much the pleasures of rural life may be increased by some acquaintance with the various forms of animal and vegetable life. Mr. Stanton's volume contains much pleasant and interesting information on the subjects to which it relates; and we strongly recommend it to such of our readers as are meditating residence for a summer month or two in rural regions.

Glenmorven. A Tale. By H. T. MULISSY. Hope and Co.

WE cannot say much for the literary merits of the work before us, though it is certainly interesting enough to read. Glenmorven, it appears, is a book for the young, as well as for parents and guardians; the hero of the tale being Edward, Earl of Glenmorven, a Scottish peer. While in early boyhood, his father, mother, elder brother, and twin sister are lost at sea; and being entrusted to Mr. Hutelins, master of a grammar school, it appears that the boy's health and temper are quite broken. The treatment of Mr. Hutelins only makes him worse; but, ere long, Glenmorven is thrown into the hands of Mr. Herbert, a gentle clergyman, who carries the young Earl to his pleasant rectory, and by a judicious system, brings him to a proper sense of duty.

We must say, there is a smack of Puseyism throughout Glenmorven; but perhaps our readers are of opinion that such a thing is now too well understood to do much harm.

Things not Generally Known. By J. TIMBS, F.S.A. D. Bogue.

A BOOK from the author of "Curiosities of London," with his long experience and extensive information, is always cordially welcomed by old and young. Without any great pretensions to profound learning or literary art, the industry and intelligence of Mr. Timbs have rendered him a most useful and instructive writer. By the present volume he will not lose one jot of his well-earned reputation. It is replete with information on a variety of subjects, presented in a popular style, and can hardly, we feel sure, be perused without pleasure and profit.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

THIRD NOTICE.

THE fulfilment of our last week's promise, to notice the "established reputations" collectively, is by no means so invidious a task as we had anticipated. The said "reputations" come out most favourably this year, and we are happy to record it. We can conceive no more encouraging homage to a new school than its imitation by an established and flourishing elder. Certainly, nothing could be more honourable to such an elder than the candid recognition and adoption of a younger rival's excellences. Many of the old painters, this year, shine as humble, painstaking students of the new ones—and the wish has, in many instances, led to success. And it is but justice to state, that the majority of those who have not seen fit to modify their style of observation and treatment, are men whose age and dignity, in their generation, honourably absolve them from any such necessity.

Mr. Stanfield is exactly where we last (and first) remember to have seen him. But we must not forget that that was in a very high position. There can scarcely be an art-student of the present generation who will deny that the first sea-piece of Stanfield's he ever saw, conveyed an idea of water such as he had never before seen realised on canvas. Whatever that sea piece may have been, Stanfield's "Abandoned," No. 94 in the present collection, is fully equal to it. It is perhaps the best picture that Stanfield ever painted. It possesses the rare merit, in the works of this artist, of simplicity. That it does not satisfy the exigencies of this fastidious age, is no disgrace to the painter. That we like Tennyson better than Pope is no disparagement to the latter. If there had been no Pops, there would have been no Tennysons. It is very possible that Tennyson, in Pope's place, would have been nobody. Few modern painters who have used Stanfield as a stepping-stone to higher excellence, could have taken the initiative, in the comparative darkness of British Art, with such advantage to posterity, as he did. The same artist has also another picture in the exhibition, No. 191, "A Guarda Costa, &c., off Fuentarabia," a very perfect specimen of

new expositions, but varying in some of his
 style—but stationary in an inferior
 style. His imitations of Chyp-
 rion, were not only
 and after sunset, one
 ourselves with statue
 in whatever in the artist's view or powers.

R. Lee is one of the improving members of the penitenti-
 ary. We have already noticed, favourably, his "Breakwater at
 "Breaking up a Week," is an equally promising specimen; so
 No. 351, "The Cornish Coast." There is brightness of colour, and ob-
 servance of natural detail, in these two pictures, that the artist's former
 lakes and leaden forests had not led us to expect. At the same
 time, the masterly freedom of the "old hand" is a pleasant relief, after
 some of the feeble searchings after truth of the new school. Mr. Lee must
 be a younger man than we had taken him for.

Mr. Cooke is unusually prolific and excellent. No. 353, "Chippagan
 Veeds," &c., may be characterised as the *windiest* sea-piece we have seen
 for some time. Mr. Cooke, as a marine landscape painter, is second only
 to Turner.

No. 68, "Little Red Riding Hood," R. Redgrave, R.A., is a beautiful
 greenland study—an immense compliment to the originators of the
 modern school, of which Mr. Redgrave has been for some three or
 four years a recognised and hopeful member.

No. 75, "The Last Meeting of Marie Antoinette and her Son," B. M.
 Ward, R.A. Mr. Ward is an established reputation with a vengeance.
 He is particularly true to his school. Unfortunately, the school to which
 he belongs (more rapidly becoming superseded than any other) can be re-
 membered only as a provisional *interregnum* in British art. A few years
 ago, the facilities of cheap literature, or some congenial cause, appeared to
 lure or send all our young artists to the study of minor history. "Peppy's
 Diary," "The Vicar of Wakefield," "Lamartine's Historical Studies,"
 &c., were eagerly clutched at as a wholesome variation from the hackneyed
 subjects imposed by the old classical academic code. It was a step in
 the right direction, and led to the formation of a school that, at all events,
 is formed now—that of the study of actual nature. Most of the graduates
 in this school have already emancipated themselves from their velvet,
 breech, and bag-wig trammels. There is this excuse for Mr. Ward's re-
 maining faithful to his early love, that he was the ablest and most com-
 prehensive master of the class of subject alluded to. His present picture
 is, in our opinion, melodramatic and unsatisfactory. The artist seems to
 be compelled to resort to a (nearly) striking subject to cover the weakness
 of his executive power. Englishmen in the present day care little about
 Marie Antoinette (almost as little as Erasmus did), unless she can be
 made interesting as an abstract woman. In this capacity, Mr. Ward cer-
 tainly does not represent her. To care one atom about his picture, we
 must be previously charged with full knowledge of the history from which
 he has taken his subject. The young daughter, with the Republican tri-
 colour tied round his waist, is at best a sorry "gag." The drawing and
 composition are faulty, and the flesh-painting execrable. There is not one
 single trace of that mastery of detail which the modern school of English
 painting has led us to look for in the most trivial as well as in the most
 exalted subjects. We would call especial attention to the conventional
 and chalky figures of the kneeling figures, and the stout leader of the Revo-
 lutionists, whose ungainliness fairly distracts the attention from the soli-
 tary sentiment of the picture—that of a cruel tenderness.

No. 319, "Doubt," P. Stone, A.R.A. Mr. Stone is, to a certain ex-
 tent, one of the "converted." This picture—the largest we remember to
 have seen with his name—is carefully and solidly painted. The title,
 unfortunately, offers itself as a handle to the professor of obvious sar-
 casm. There is Mr. Stone's usual young couple—with a supernumerary
 female pair, apparently interfering with their matrimonial prospects.
 "Doubt," as to their history and position, is the prevailing emotion ex-
 cited. Why does Mr. Stone always attempt these miserable little dilutions
 of the Adelphe drama that have nothing to do with the province of paint-
 ing? Perhaps a printmaker could enlighten us.

No. 462, "Returning from Church," W. F. Witherington. This artist
 paints as well as ever he did, and no better. Let the spectator remember
 that, thirty years ago, Witherington's attempts at real country life—taken
 from nature, instead of from Claude, Wilson, or Gaspar Poussin—were con-
 sidered great innovations. There may come a day when Millais himself
 shall be pronounced conventional and "slow."

The portraits, this year, are for the most part abominable—more espe-
 cially as they occupy so much room. Mr. Grant we believe to be the
 worst painter who ever achieved a reputation—and he is, unfortunately,
 prolific. We have had considerable experience of country life, and re-
 member several village portrait clubs, but we cannot recall many speci-
 mens emanating from such sources inferior to No. 63, "The Duke of Rut-
 land." It is even worse than a likeness, by the same artist, of the "Earl of
 Lucan." Surely, nothing could be more unjust than to accuse our
 mistresses of fastidious exigency. They employ Mr. Grant!

Ary Scheffer's portrait of Dickens has been, in our opinion, unfairly
 abused. In the first place, it is an admirable likeness. If the popu-
 lar Charles himself sat there from ten till dusk, his handsome, defiant, and
 vagrant face (for Dickens has a comic look, in spite of Melrose) would not
 be held with more frequent shivers of delighted recognition. The mould-
 ing and *pose* of the figure are masterly. The colouring may be cold and
 reading; but, compare the work as a whole with anything of similar pre-
 tensions in the exhibition, and as a representation of human individuality,
 it must be pronounced unparalleled. Mr. Solomon Hart (Professor of
 Painting to the Royal Academy) has two portraits—one, of Lord Mayor
 Salomons; the other, of Sir Anthony de Rothschild, painted for the
 Jew's Asylum. All wonder at the collection of the Jewish race should be
 at an end, after the contemplation of these two pictures. There must
 be strong *esprit de nation* in a people who tolerate Mr. Hart as their
 historic portrait painter.

Mr. Boxall has a few flimsy portraits, prettily effective, giving all his
 subjects the same strawberry-cream complexion. A M. Boutinbonne ex-
 hibits two likenesses of the Emperor Napoleon and the Empress—that
 look like paper-hangings on the walls of a Palais Royal Café. These two
 pictures have been purchased by her Majesty. Her taste is blameless. We
 regret that her illustrations ally has not been able to secure a more efficient
 court painter. Sir J. W. Gordon is, as usual, immeasurably in advance of
 all his English rivals. His "David Cox" is a masterpiece of boldness
 and character. Sir John also exhibits a portrait of Mr. Samuel Warren,
 the novelist, which (apart from its merits as a painting) startles us by its
 utter variance with our preconceived ideal of what the author of "Ten
 thousand a Year" must be like. The face is that, apparently, of a shrewd,
 hard-headed humourist.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

The great strength of her Majesty's Theatre is Alboni, who is, accord-
 ingly, going through all her characters, appearing first in the "Ceneren-
 tina," then in the "Barbiere," afterwards in the "Sonnambula," and
 next to that in the "Favorita." The "lady" (as the "Athenaeum" critic
 says) has accordingly had ample opportunities for the display of her bril-
 liancy, ingenuously, and strong dramatic power. When Alboni was in
 England five years since, she was only a third of the vocalist she is now.
 The Rossini, or purely vocal, side of her talent had perhaps been devel-
 oped, but no one imagined she could sing the highly dramatic music of
 Meyerbeer, until the report was spread of her having achieved one of the
 greatest successes known at the Académie Royale in the part of Fides.
 Her *Léonore*, in "La Favorite," or "Favorita," is said to have created a
furore at Antwerp and Brussels; and her success in other works belonging
 to the *répertoire* of the French Grand Opera, proved beyond doubt her
 genius for serious dramatic music; but even then there was no reason to
 suppose that the *contralto* who had first gained her spurs in parts in
 which she might without impropriety have worn them, would ever shine
 in such an ingenuous and pathetic character as that of Amina, the
opéra-comique. Accordingly, the announcement of "Sonnambula," with Alboni
 as Amina, was as much a surprise as that of "La Favorite," with Alboni

as Cenerentola. Her success as the heroine of Bellini's work was as great as
 her success in all her other parts she has undertaken. The singing of the
 final *aria* created the enthusiasm which she produced in the "non piu
 mesta" of the "Cenerentola," and the singing lesson (i.e., Hummel's air,
 with variations) in the "Barbiere."

It is curious to say much about Alboni's Rossini, with which
 the majority of the musical public are quite familiar. The persistence
 with which the public demand, "Una Voce," the duet with Figaro,
 and every thing which Alboni sings, or assists in singing, amounts
 to a general request that she will sing everything twice. With this the
 vocalist is of course unable to comply, and the best course of proceeding
 we can recommend to the audience is for those who have only seen her
 once in the "Barbiere" to see her twice, for those who have seen her
 twice to see her four times—an arrangement which will also have the advan-
 tage of benefiting Mr. Lonsley. We have only space for a passing word
 in commendation of the *Basilio* and *Bartolo*. May they improve, or may
 they always have the advantage of appearing with an admirable Rossini,
 who will keep the audience in continual recollection and anticipation of
 her voice when she is not singing. Calzolari was as good as he could be
 without being Mario, and Deletti was very good for Deletti, who is, how-
 ever, not lively enough for Figaro.

The singers at the Royal Italian Opera have recovered from their colds,
 and the music of "Lucio e Borgia" is now sung to perfection by Grisi,
 Mario, and Ronconi, instead of being sung to perfection by Grisi alone, as
 was almost the case when it was first performed. Ronconi in the trio of
 the third act, Grisi in the final duet of the same act, and Mario in his dying
 scene, are what the *habitués* of the Royal Italian Opera remember them to
 have been on former occasions. As for Mademoiselle Didie, she has much
 improved; and if the Didie of last season has much improved, the Didie
 of this season must be an admirable *contralto*, which is exactly the case.
 It is no easy thing to obtain a marked success, as Mademoiselle Didie has
 done, in a part which Alboni had made peculiarly her own. The "Comte
 Ory" has been repeated, and we are glad to say with much success. Had
 it been otherwise, the *habitués* would have been alone to blame, for the
 opera is one of the most charming Rossini has produced, while its execu-
 tion is one of the greatest triumphs the Royal Italian Opera has achieved.

Madame Ristori is announced to appear at the Lyceum in the middle of
 next month. Madame Ristori, who is now 55 years of age, made her first
 appearance on the stage almost as soon as she could walk, and yet it was
 not until last year that anything was known of her genius, either in Paris
 or London. Her success in Paris, in *Francesca di Rimini*, *Maria Stoa*, &c.,
 and above all, in *Myrrha*, justifies Mr. Gye in counting upon an enthu-
 siastic reception, and what is more to the purpose—on crowded houses, when-
 ever she appears. Desperate attacks on the Italian language have already
 been answered by amateurs who were previously in total ignorance of the
 melodious tongue, or whose very imperfect acquaintance with it had been
 derived merely through the opera libretto.

Mr. Howard Glover, who is well known to the general public as a com-
 poser, and to a particular portion of the public as a composer and critic,
 has organised an opera company for Sadler's Wells. Accordingly, when
 Mr. Henry Mayhew arrives at that portion of his "Great World," which
 has to be devoted to "Musical London," he will have to include Islington
 in it. The appearance of Mr. Sims Reeves in the region of Pentonville is
 about as surprising an event as that of a canary would be at the North
 Pole. But that enterprising bird-catcher, Mr. Howard Glover, has re-
 sisted in taking him there in company with Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss
 Poole, Mr. Weiss, and other specimens of a somewhat inferior feather.
 The "Bohemian Girl" was played on Monday, with the greatest success.
 Mr. Balfe conducted, and was received with an enthusiasm which was
 highly creditable to the audience. The composer has introduced some
 new music into this, his most popular opera. The most remarkable *mor-
 ceau* is an *aria* with an obligato flute accompaniment for Arline, which was
 admirably sung by Mrs. Sims Reeves. Mr. Sims Reeves met with a tri-
 umphant success as Thaddeus, and Miss Poole was equally successful,
 though not equally triumphant, as the Gypsy Queen. Mr. Weiss, who is
 our best English bass, sustained that character through the medium of
 Count Arbach.

The musical public, and above all musical critics, are being overwhelmed
 with concerts. Philharmonic Societies, New and Old Unions, Orchestral
 and Musical, to say nothing of all sorts of *réunions* which are occasionally
 very unmusical, continue to issue their programmes one after the other.
 Next week we may have space to say a few words about them.

OBITUARY.

SIR W. H. K. C.B.—On the 10th of February, died at sea, on board
 the *Monarch*, home bound from Calcutta, aged 68, Major-General Sir William
 Henry Sleeman, K.C.B., of the Bengal Infantry. He had served in India for forty-
 eight years in various posts, both military and civil; and had been successively
 political agent and resident at Gwalior and Lucknow, and was mainly instru-
 mental in counselling, under Lord Dalhousie, the annexation of Oude. He was
 also the author of an interesting work on India and Indian society, entitled
 "Rambles and Recollections of an Indian Official." He was an indefatigable
 public servant, and an able administrator; and it is very much to his in-
 fluence that we owe the abolition of the horrid system of Thuggee. Sir William
 Sleeman was most highly esteemed by Lord Ellenborough and the Marquis of
 Dalhousie. His health, shattered and broken by a long life of public service, gave
 way in the summer of 1854, but he was not well enough to think of returning
 home till the commencement of the present year. In January last, he was
 nominated a K.C.B., but we believe he did not live to receive actual intelligence
 that the honour was conferred on him.

FITZCLARENCE, LORD A.—On the 17th instant, at the residence of Sir G.
 Wombwell, Bart., in Yorkshire, aged 54, died the Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence,
 third son of his late Majesty King William IV., by Mrs. Dorothy Jordan, and
 younger brother of the late Earl of Munster. Lord Adolphus was born in 1803,
 and entered the navy at an early age. At the time of his decease he had
 attained the rank of a Rear-Admiral; he was also a naval aide-de-camp to her
 Majesty, and Ranger of the Home Park, Windsor. Lord Adolphus, with his
 other brothers, was raised to the dignity of the younger son of a Marquis in
 1831. He lived and died unmarried.

TIERNEY, SIR E., BART.—May 13, died, at his residence in Fitzwilliam Street,
 Dublin, aged 76, Sir Edward Tierney, Bart., late Crown Solicitor on the North-
 Western Circuit of Ireland. He succeeded to the title, as second baronet,
 in 1845, under a special remainder, on the death of his brother, the late Sir Mat-
 thew Tierney, many years physician to King George IV. and William IV. He
 was born in 1780, and married in 1812 Anna Maria, daughter of the late Henry
 Jones, Esq., of Bloomsbury Square, but was left a widower about ten years since.
 He is succeeded in the title and estates by his only son, Matthew Edward,
 late a lieutenant-colonel in the Coldstream Guards, in which corps he served in
 the Crimea during the earlier part of the war with Russia. The present Bar-
 net married last year Mary, daughter of E. G. Farrer, Esq. By Sir Edward's
 death a valuable piece of preferment, the income of which amounts to nearly
 £5,000 a year, reverts to the Irish Executive, and is nominally in the gift of the
 Attorney-General for Ireland.

SIR W. S. HAMILTON, BART.—On the 6th instant, at his residence in Edin-
 burgh, of paralytic seizure after several years' duration, died Sir William Stirling
 Hamilton, Bart., Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edin-
 burgh, in his 68th year. He was third Baronet of his line in possession, but
 ninth "de jure"; and in 1816 was served heir male to his father, who was
 formerly Professor of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow. Sir William, after
 spending some few years at Glasgow, proceeded to Ball College, Oxford, where
 he soon became distinguished as an original and profound thinker, and graduated
 in 1811 as a first class in classical honours. Soon afterwards, he became a mem-
 ber of the Scottish Bar; but his mind was more bent on metaphysical inquiry
 than on dry legal technicalities. He became Professor of History, and subse-
 quently of Logic and Metaphysics, at Edinburgh, where he numbered among his
 pupils many of the master minds of modern times. Here he continued, till very
 lately, his deep and extensive philosophical researches, and even his lectures, in
 spite of the severity of the illness under which he sank. He was a member of
 very many learned societies, both at home and abroad, and a frequent contribu-
 tor of philosophical articles to the "Edinburgh Review" and the "Encyclopædia
 Metropolitana." In 1839, he married his cousin, Janet, daughter of H. Marshall,
 Esq., by whom he has left several children. His eldest son, William, born in
 1840, and unmarried, succeeds to the title.

BERKARD, REV. SIR G.—The late Rev. Sir George Burrard, who died on the
 17th inst., was brother to the late Gallant Admiral Sir Harry Burrard-Neale,
 G.C.B., who formerly represented Lymington, and died in 1840. The deceased
 Baronet was Chaplain in Ordinary to her Majesty, and held for many years the
 livings of Burton Coggles, Lancashire, and Middleton Tynes, Yorkshire. He was
 born in 1769, and graduated at Merton College, Oxford. He was twice married,
 first, to a daughter of William Coppell, Esq., and second, to a daughter of the
 late Admiral Bingham. His eldest son by his former marriage, who repre-
 sented Lymington in Parliament, and is married to a daughter of Sir G. Duckett,
 Bart., succeeds to the title.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN THE REGENT'S PARK.

AMONG the holiday sights of London, the Zoological Gardens de-
 servedly take the highest rank; and for several years past the extremely
 liberal terms on which the public are admitted during Easter and Whit-
 week, have attracted visitors by thousands instead of the hundreds who
 formerly frequented them. Simultaneously with this increased facility of
 access, an immense development of the collection has sustained its
 growing popularity, and it is now no unusual thing to find as many
 persons on a fine summer day paying their contribution to this self-
 supporting establishment, as visit the British Museum without any pay-
 ment at all.

In a recent article devoted to the Zoological Gardens by the "Quarterly
 Review," some very curious particulars are given as to the statistics of
 this marvellous menagerie, which will well repay the attention of those
 who take an interest in the progress of natural history, and the available
 means of studying it in this country. In the six-and-twenty years during
 which these gardens have been in existence, upwards of 14,000 living
 animals have been exhibited, and the average strength of the collection
 during the last five years, has not been less than 1,400 specimens.

At the present moment we find there most interesting and copious illus-
 trations of the quadrupeds, birds, and reptiles; with a less general, but
 not less interesting display of fish, molluscs, insects, zoophytes, and
 numbers of the so-called lower forms of creation which swarm in the
 British seas, and are admirably managed in the aquarium. The insight
 into marine zoology, which has been given to hundreds of thousands in
 this building alone, is of itself a sufficient claim for public gratitude;
 and a new interest is thus communicated to the sea-side visits which
 all London makes at some time or other of the year. The rapidly
 increasing aquarium-mania is certainly a more intellectual hobby than the
 declining taste for Coeliox, and the symptoms are daily assuming quite
 as acute a tone as that active madness ever had. The only drawback to
 the aquarium system as practised in the Regent's Park, is the opacity of
 the sea-water, in some of the summer months, which result from the ap-
 parently irrepressible growth of microscopic convee. At the present
 period of the year, the water is perfectly limpid, and the exquisitely
 beautiful creatures which inhabit it, display themselves to the utmost ad-
 vantage in every stage of their existence.

To give even a summary of the contents of the menagerie is alto-
 gether beyond the limits of a newspaper article; but we shall, from time
 to time, as objects of new interest are added to it, repeat our notices of
 this delightful place of amusement, now happily as available to the work-
 ing classes as to the highest and most wealthy. It cannot be
 too generally known, that during the whole of Easter and Whit-
 week, and on every Monday throughout the year, any person respectably attired,
 however humble, may obtain admission to these Gardens on the payment of
 sixpence. And it is a most gratifying fact, that ever since this advantage
 has been offered by the Society to the people, a steady increase of
 visitors has resulted from it, so that, to borrow the words of the "Quarterly"
 reviewer, between the year 1848 and the year 1854, we have on Monday
 alone "an increase of 135,712 persons, many of whom were no doubt
 rescued, on those days at least, from the fascinations of the public-house.
 With all this flood of life, the greater portion of it undoubtedly belonging
 to the labouring classes, not the slightest injury has been done to the gar-
 dens. A flower or two may have been plucked, but not by that class of
 Englishmen who were once thought too brutal to be allowed access un-
 watched to any public exhibition. Every year that passes over our heads
 proves that such shows as these are splendid examples of the method
 of teaching introduced by Bell and Lancaster, that they furnish instruc-
 tion of a nature which is never forgotten, and which redies at the same
 time that it delights."

We give an engraving, representing one of the most interesting features
 of the whole collection—the herd of Elands—bred from the five animals
 bequeathed to the Society in 1851, by the late Earl of Derby.

The complete acclimation of this celebrated species of antelope may
 now be fairly assumed as accomplished by the Zoological Society—the five
 original animals having increased to fifteen, and the first-born having al-
 ready reproduced.

The Eland is the largest antelope of the South African wilderness, where
 its flesh is esteemed as the greatest delicacy of the chase, by the unanimous
 testimony of every traveller and sportsman who has penetrated to their
 haunts. Even in their wild state they have a great aptitude to fatten,
 and as an adult bull in first-rate condition will weigh about 2,000 lbs., they
 can scarcely be regarded as inferior to our own Short-horns in this quality.
 The rapidity of their growth, and the certainty with which they multiply
 in this climate, with moderate protection, is abundantly proved by the suc-
 cessful results which have been obtained in the Regent's Park; and the
 possibility of their entire domestication in Europe now becomes a question
 of extreme interest.

The far too limited area of land occupied by the Zoological Society pre-
 cludes this experiment being fully tested in their establishment, and we
 have therefore learned with great satisfaction that some of the young Elands
 have been purchased by Viscount Hill, a nobleman distinguished by his
 success in agricultural pursuits, for the purpose of placing them under
 the favourable conditions of abundant range and a healthy soil in the beru-
 tiful park at Hawkstone.

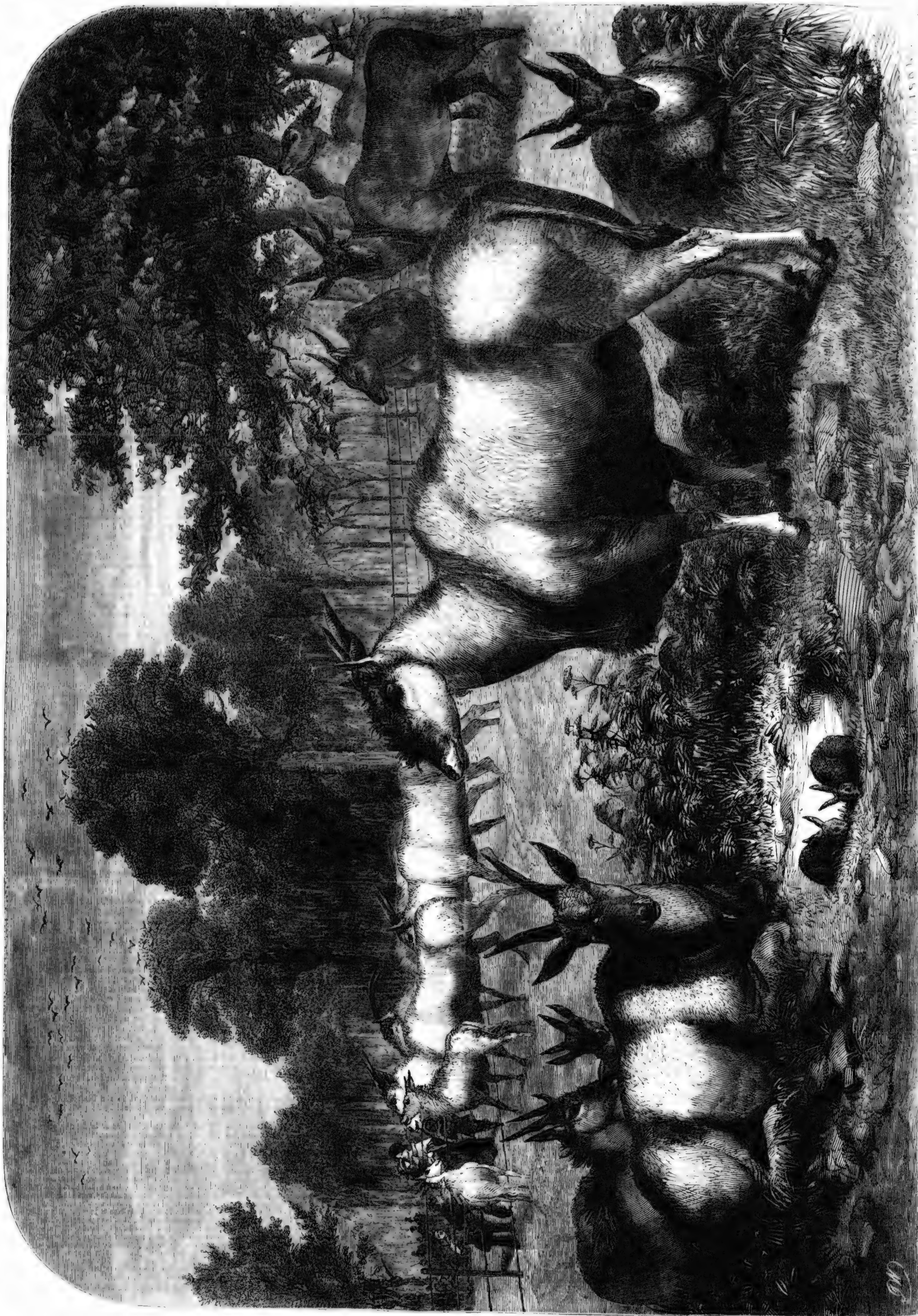
SUNDAY MUSIC IN THE PARKS.

THE sudden withdrawal from the parks of the military bands, which
 had drawn together immense audiences, occasioned a feeling of general
 anxiety. It was feared in many quarters that even that portion of the
 community who were careless as to the musical performances while within
 reach, would not patiently submit to the withdrawal of a privilege once
 authoritatively conferred; and it was very generally believed that others
 who approved and who had enjoyed the music, might exhibit some
 feelings of exasperation at its sudden termination. A large number of
 placards had been distributed, calling upon the people to assemble, as
 usual, on Sunday last. Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens were the
 localities in which it was anticipated the most formidable expression of
 feeling would have been made; but the weather damped the ardour of the
 most enthusiastic anti-Sabbatarians, and the intended demonstration was
 a complete failure. It remains to be seen, however, whether the popular
 feeling was altogether washed out by Sunday's rains. Various parochial
 meetings have been held during the week to consider the subject, at one
 of which (held in St. Pancras) Mr. Dickens was invited to attend. He
 replied that working-men should of themselves, and by themselves, assert
 their right to "an innocent and heartfelt enjoyment on the Sunday after-
 noons;" but if the meeting "thought it expedient to unite with other
 metropolitan parishes in forming a fund for the payment of such expenses
 as may be incurred in peaceably and numerously representing to the
 governing powers that the harmless recreation they have taken away is
 very much wanted," his subscription of £10 was at their service.

THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW has been condemned in the State that gave it
 birth; the Maine Legislature have passed an act repealing its prohibitory
 provisions.

THE COMMITTEE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE have come to the resolution of
 permitting no more bal masques to take place in the theatre.

ESCAPING CONSCRIPTION.—A curious case has just been submitted to the
 Imperial Court of Lyons. In 1795, a young man, named Chuzeville, of Propeux
 (Rhône), in order to escape the conscription, induced the mayor of a neighbour-
 ing village to draw up a register of a civil marriage having taken place between him and
 an old woman of seventy, though in reality no marriage was celebrated, and the
 old woman did not even know that he had given himself out as her husband. The
 register being produced, was admitted, by the laws of that day, as a valid exemp-
 tion from military service, and was recorded as such. Seven years after, Chuzeville
 married regularly a young woman, and she bore him a family. After his
 death, which took place not very long ago, the husband of his youngest daughter,
 in order to get possession of all his property, called on the tribunal of Villfranche
 to declare that, as a register of a marriage with the old woman existed, and had
 been treated as valid, the second marriage, celebrated before the death of the old
 woman, was illegal, and the children born of it previously to that death were
 illegitimate. The tribunal gave judgment to that effect. It was on appeal from
 this decision that the case came before the Imperial Court of Lyons, and the
 Court quashed it, on the ground that, as no marriage could be proved to have
 been celebrated with the old woman, that with the young one must alone be con-
 sidered legal.



THE ELANDS, IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—(FROM A DRAWING BY J. W. H. P.)



REBEKAH FIRST SEES ISAAC.—(PAINTED BY H. WARREN, NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.)



NEW MILITIA BARRACKS AT RICHMOND, SURREY.

WARREN'S PICTURE OF REBEKAH'S FIRST MEETING WITH ISAAC.

In anticipation of a brief concluding notice of the two Water Colour G. series, which will appear in our next, we present our readers with an engraving from Mr. Henry Warren's remarkable picture of "Rebekah's first meeting with Isaac"—already mentioned in these columns. As a painter of Eastern life, Mr. Warren is second only to Lewis—and immeasurably above the third—wherever that individual may happen to be. Viewed as a mere animal painter—if the proportions, actions, and character of the camel were as familiar to Englishmen as those of the dog—it is no exaggeration to state that Warren would rank equally with Landseer. (See page 365.)

NEW MILITIA BARRACKS AT RICHMOND

We confess to having a certain kind of respect for that prejudice, now quite out of fashion we can well suppose, which led Englishmen to regard the Militia with a favour unfelt for other military bodies. No doubt, even at that period when the Militia force was the only army recognised by the law of England, it was as easy as now to indulge in ridicule at the expense of rustic soldiers offered by provincial magnates, and to sneer because they did not march, and wheel, and shoulder their muskets, and wear their clothes, like the regular troops of continental Europe. Most people remember the lines in which Dryden expresses the sentiments felt at the Court of the last Stuart king towards a force so little adapted to the purposes of a gloomy tyrant:—

"The country rings around with loud alarms,
And raw in fields the rude Militia swarms;
Mouths without hands, maintained at vast expense,
In peace a charge, in war a weak defence.
Stout once a month they march, a blustering band,
And ever, but in time of need, at hand—
Thus was the morn when, issuing on the guard,
Drawn up in rank and file they stood prepared
Of seeming arms to make a short essay,
Then hasten to be drunk, the business of the day."

But however absurd it might have appeared in the eyes of enlightened men to stake the glory and independence of "an old and haughty nation, proud in arms," on the martial prowess of peasants taken from the plough or workshop, experience has proved pretty clearly that the Militia can, under our present military system, render to the regular troops services much too valuable to be dispensed with. Lord Panmure, when, the other day, proposing a vote of Parliamentary thanks to the army and navy, observed that "the Militia, upon a system of voluntary enlistment, now mustered 63,603 men, after having given to the army, since November, 1854, no fewer than 33,102 recruits. It had, moreover, exhibited its desire to serve in foreign parts. No fewer than eleven regiments of militia, mustering very nearly 6,000 men, were now serving the Queen in the Mediterranean garrisons. And not only that, but they had been obliged reluctantly to decline the offers for foreign service of no fewer than fifty-two regiments. It was only the knowledge that their services would not be accepted that prevented every Militia regiment in the United Kingdom from tendering their services, not only for Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands, but for any of the colonies; nay, he knew that many of them were most anxious to enter the field with the allied army. He could not express all that he felt on the services which the militia had rendered during the war. Their example had proved that, while apparently the gentlemen of England enjoyed themselves at home during peace, they were ever ready to give their services on the breaking out of war. He had felt much gratification in finding that those country gentlemen, who joined their regiments for the first time, had shown such zeal and desire to perfect themselves in their new profession, that many of the regiments of Militia had become in a very short time equal to regiments of the line."

We can hardly doubt that men, who, in the Militia, have undergone some training, and rendered the country some service, will go back to their native villages as proud as peacocks, and that they will not only inspire the rustic damsels with a proper degree of admiration, but the other sex with something of that military spirit which is, after all, essential to our national greatness. Such being our impressions, it was, of course, with gratification that we visited the barracks which have just been erected at the most beautiful of English villages, for the Royal Surrey Regiment of Militia.

Surrounded by pleasant gardens, and shaded by tall elms, so aged in appearance that we could not help fancying they might have been planted in the time of the Tudors, stands, on rather flat ground, the elegant edifice represented in the engraving, which the reader will find on the preceding page. It is about half a mile from the margin of the silver Thames, with Kew Gardens intervening, and from the front one can see the clumps of trees in Richmond Park. The situation is naturally healthy, and everything has been done which art can do to secure the comfort of the men. There is a capital guard-room, store-rooms stocked with various kinds of furniture, an armoury containing 366 stands of arms, a spacious courtyard for loungers, an airy and commodious hospital for the sick, and, by-the-by, cells and a "dormitory," for the accommodation of those who are unfortunate enough to get into the awkward scrape of yielding to the seductive influence of gin or beer.

The new barracks, however, have, up to this date, seen no such sight. All is quiet within their walls. In fact, we found the place under the care of a staff-sergeant, who was all alone with his glory, but proved a host in himself, and was quite enthusiastic in praise of the regiment. It appears that twelve months ago the Surrey Militia, which is commanded by Colonel Sumner, left for Aldershot, and that it is now quartered at Portsmouth. The regiment has given no fewer than 700 recruits to the Guards and Line, but is still about 800 strong, boasts of an excellent band, and will, no doubt, be heartily welcomed back to the county from which it derived its origin, and to the handsome barracks prepared for the reception of those gallant men of whom it is composed.

PRINCE METTERNICH ENTERED HIS EIGHTY-FOURTH YEAR ON FRIDAY WEEK.

THE NEW ASYLUM, which has been for some time in course of erection at Fort Pitt, Chatham, is now ready for the reception of lunatic soldiers.

THE RAFT FOUND IN THE BLACK SEA by her Majesty's ship Retribution, and supposed to be worth £20,000, has got into the Admiralty Court. The question is, whether it should be condemned as droits of the Crown, or of the Admiralty.

THE ILLUMINATIONS.—In anticipation of the immense concourse that will press into the Green Park at the illuminations, five additional openings have been made into that park; three from Piccadilly—two opposite Devonshire House, another facing Down Street, the third opposite Apsley House—the fourth on Constitution Hill, facing the entrance to the Park from Grosvenor Place, and the fifth near Sutherland House. Each of these is sixty feet in width.

THE IRASCIBLE LOTA.—The editor of the "Ballarat Times" having reflected on the character of Lota Montes as a woman, and not as an actress, was attacked by her with a riding-whip, in an hotel where she was residing, and where he had called. Mr. Seekamp retaliated with a similar weapon, and ere long the combatants had each other literally by the hair. Some of the parties interposed, and they were separated, but not before life-preservers and revolvers had been produced. At the theatre, next evening, Lota Montes was enthusiastically received, and at the close of the performance made a speech and a pun. She said she had offered, though a woman, to meet him with pistols; but the coward who could beat a woman ran from a woman. He said he would drive her off the diggings; but she would change the tables, and make Seekamp D-camp.

THE DANISH SOUND DUES.—According to the allotment of the thirty-five millions of rix-dollars claimed by Denmark as a compensation for the loss of the Sound Dues, Russia will have to pay twelve millions of rix-dollars (about £3,000,000), Sweden five millions, and Norway one million rix-dollars. The towns of Lubeck, Bremen, and Hamburg, on the other hand, have formally declined to accede to the Danish proposals, till the land transit duty levied by Denmark on goods passing through Holstein and Lauenburg shall be abolished. The relations with the United States remain for the present unaltered, and there is no new feature to report in the negotiations. The treaty, which originally was to expire on the 12th of April, was renewed for two months on the proposal of the Cabinet of Washington, and will ultimately expire on the 12th of June.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—The people of Bamber Bridge, anticipating the arrival of an excursion train, had assembled outside the station gates in large numbers. Amongst the crowd was a little girl, who stood between the gate and the post on which it was hung. She was caught and pressed between the upright bar of the gate and the gatepost. The child's head was so severely bruised that she died immediately.

POLICE AND CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE LIMBO OF NEWSPAPERS.—A letter-sorter in the General Post-office, named Henry Bartlett, was lately detected in the act of tearing off the directions of different newspapers, and throwing the latter down a shoot or spout communicating with another department. There appeared to be no motive beyond mere wantonness for this extraordinary conduct; and when brought up at Bow Street, the prisoner's only answer to the charge was, that he had been lately fined for mis-sorting papers, the fact being that the directions were illegible; and, therefore, he threw them aside altogether. This, however, was no excuse, as the Post-office authorities keep a "blind sorter," whose business it is to study, with an accomplished eye, all illegible directions. The prisoner was therefore committed for trial.

MURDER BY A PORTUGUESE SEAMAN.—Brid de Henriques, a Portuguese seaman, was last week charged with the murder of Vassili Caligari, also a seaman. Henriques and Caligari were boarding in a lodging-house for foreign seamen, in Welles Square. On Thursday week the landlady went out to market, and locked the outer door. The prisoner came downstairs and knocked loudly, demanding immediate admission. He was requested to go round to another door, but he refused to do so, and continued in the street, kicking at the door, and at length broke a pane of glass. After the performance of this feat, he went round to the door to which he was first directed, and entered the coffee-room. Some of the lodgers remonstrated with him, and a fight took place. Caligari, who was playing at cards, rose, and endeavoured to make peace. The prisoner immediately took a new dagger from a sheath suspended to his side, and plunged it into Caligari's abdomen; withdrew the dagger, and stabbed him a second time. Of these wounds, both more than three inches deep, the unfortunate man died, after lingering some twenty-four hours. Henriques was brought before the Magistrate at the Thames Police Court, and there denied the charge, though at least a dozen persons saw the wounds inflicted. He was remanded on the charge of wilful murder.

ATTEMPTED FRAUD.—Jane Evans, known among the begging-letter fraternity as the "Dowager Duchess of Westminster," was finally examined at Westminster on Monday. She was charged with practising a fraud upon Lord Henry Thynne, and committed for three months to hard labour in the House of Correction.

DUCKING A WOMAN IN A HORSE-TROUGH.—Mr. Charles Robinson, surgeon, of Old Kent Road, was charged at the Lambeth Police Court with placing Harriett Jordan in a horse-trough, and thereby endangering her life. Mr. Robinson's defence was, that he was at the Prince of Saxe-Coburg public-house in the forenoon of Wednesday last, when the landlady complained of the conduct of Jordan, said she was a complete nuisance to him, and wished that some person would give her a good ducking in the horse-trough; upon which Mr. Robinson took her up in his arms, carried her to the trough in front of the house, and placed her in it. When taken out she was perfectly insensible, and a surgeon who was called upon to attend her, pronounced her life to be in danger, and ordered her removal to Camberwell Workhouse.

Mr. Robinson added, that he had been to see the woman, who said that if he gave her a few shillings she would not appear against him; and the bargain was accordingly made.

The Magistrate remarked, that he could not think of permitting such an outrage to go un punished; and the prisoner, therefore, must be remanded on bail to a future day, when the woman must be in attendance.

WIFE STABBING.—Dennis Cavanagh, whose murderous assault upon his wife we have already recorded, was again brought up at the Thames Police Court. The evidence of his wife and of his daughter was still given with great reserve, the former declaring that she did not know who stabbed her, as it was dark, and the latter pleading equal ignorance. Mr. William Ellis, a surgeon, said he had been in attendance on Mrs. Cavanagh ever since she received the wounds, which were of a very serious description. There was a wound under the left breast three inches long, a stab wound between the lower ribs, a severe cut in the back of the hand, and the thumb was nearly severed in two. The prisoner, a big Irishman, who blubbered loudly during the investigation, said he had no recollection of having hurt his wife; he was drunk at the time, and what had happened was all a dream to him. The Magistrate said there was no doubt the wife and daughter of the prisoner were screening him, and it would, therefore, be useless to send him for trial. He should convict the prisoner summarily, and accordingly sentenced him to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

THE AMERICAN HOTEL PLUNDERERS.—Benjamin Allan Howard and Oscar Kingston, whose burglarious exploits in various hotels have made them "marked men," were committed for trial on Monday.

ANOTHER OFFICIAL DEFAULTER AT PORTSMOUTH.—Certain inquiries arising out of the complaints of convicts and others on board the Stirling Castle, convict invalid hulk, have led to the precipitate departure of Major Shaw, the Governor. The Major, it is reported, has appropriated to his own use some £600, entrusted to him for payment of general expenses, wages of warders, &c. The salary of the Governor is £250 per annum, besides which he had apartments on board the hulk, the whole of the poop being appropriated to his use; far more room and accommodation being provided for him than any Admiral possesses on board ship. Yet a warder, who of course could ill afford to spare the money, loses £5 by the Governor's departure, the latter having borrowed that sum of him a day or two before leaving.

EXTENSIVE FORGORIES.—At the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, on Friday week, Jacob Christensen, lately shipbroker of Leith, was charged with the forgery of seven bills of exchange, amounting in all to about £3,770. He was convicted of the crime, and sentenced to transportation for life.

DIVORCE.—On Saturday, judgment was given in the suit of Davidson v. Davidson, instituted by the husband against the wife. The parties were married in February, 1855. Mrs. Davidson being at the time 20 years of age. It was alleged that Mrs. Davidson, while at school in Boulogne, had formed an attachment for a young Frenchman, named Emile Lalouette, and that a correspondence had taken place between them clandestinely until the marriage. Although she left her husband, and went to live with Lalouette. The court came to the conclusion that the husband was entitled to a decree for separation.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.—Mr. Charles Russell, Deputy-Chairman of the Albion Life Office, and late Chairman of the Great Western Railway, committed suicide last week. He was found lying on his bed, and bleeding from his nose and mouth. Two pistols were by his side; one of them had missed fire, but the ball of the other had entered the roof of the mouth, and lodged in the brain. The wound was at once pronounced to be mortal; still he lingered on until two o'clock in the afternoon. The Rev. Whitworth Russell, Inspector of Prisons, who also died by his own hands, was Mr. Charles Russell's brother.

LOSS OF LIFE BY FIRE.—On the morning of Friday week, a fire broke out on the premises of a Mr. Greaves, at West Deeping. Adjoining his house is a water-mill, which he found was in flames. Two millers were sleeping there. Greaves looked in, and he believed he saw the men sinking from suffocation. The mill was soon after enveloped in flames, which were rapidly extending themselves to the house. A short time afterwards, Joseph Morley saw, hanging from the rafters, the body of one of the men gradually burning away; the bodies eventually dropped a safe ground-floor, and thence into the water. When taken out, it was found that their heads were nearly burnt from their bodies.

MR. A'BECKETT has decided that omnibus proprietors cannot refuse to take a fare, on the plea that vacant seats are booked.

A JOINT-STOCK HORSE BREEDING COMPANY has been started at Newmarket, with a capital of £100,000 in £100 shares.

THE DISTURBANCES IN SYRIA.—The "Presse d'Orient" gives the following details of the dreadful act of burning to death, at Marasch, the agent of the English Government and his family.—The name of this unfortunate man was Guarnani. The English army had established, in various places in the interior, agents to purchase horses and mules. At Marasch, in the province of Adana, M. Guarnani, an Italian, had been appointed. This gentleman, being exceedingly irritated at a decision made against him by a cad, used some warm language to the cad, who ordered him to be seized and bastinadoed. Before this could be executed, however, M. Guarnani rushed out of the court, hurried to his own house, and barricaded himself in. The populace, urged on by the cad, pursued him, and endeavoured to force in the door of the house. M. Guarnani, however, having his wife and children to defend, held firm, and all the attempts of the populace proved vain, till, finding every other means ineffectual, they determined to set fire to the house. This they did by heaping wood and other combustible matters around it; and then, when the unfortunate family attempted to escape, they attacked them with stones and sticks, and actually kept M. Guarnani and his family within the fire until they were all burned to death. No doubt is entertained that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe will insist on the most ample satisfaction for this frightful crime.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The new loan of £5,000,000 has been taken by Messrs. Rothschild at £107 10s. 7d. 3 per cents. for every £100 in money, being exactly 93 in consols; and it is stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not find it necessary to issue more than £2,000,000 exchequer bills during the remainder of the year to meet the expenditure of the country. This statement, though not very satisfactory to our tax-payers, because no remission of duties or taxes is proposed, has produced rather a firm market for most national securities, if we except the unfunded debt, which is still at a very low point, and prices have continued to improve.

Transactions have taken place in the new scrip at 1½ to 1½ prem. Bank stock has realised 21½. The 3 per cents. reduced have marked 92½ to 92½; 3 per cents. consols, for money, 93½ to 94½; ditto, for account, 93½ to 94½; new

3 per cents. 94½ to 95½; long annuities, 1855, 171-172; 1856, 171-172; 1857, 171-172; 1858, 171-172; 1859, 171-172; 1860, 171-172; 1861, 171-172; 1862, 171-172; 1863, 171-172; 1864, 171-172; 1865, 171-172; 1866, 171-172; 1867, 171-172; 1868, 171-172; 1869, 171-172; 1870, 171-172; 1871, 171-172; 1872, 171-172; 1873, 171-172; 1874, 171-172; 1875, 171-172; 1876, 171-172; 1877, 171-172; 1878, 171-172; 1879, 171-172; 1880, 171-172; 1881, 171-172; 1882, 171-172; 1883, 171-172; 1884, 171-172; 1885, 171-172; 1886, 171-172; 1887, 171-172; 1888, 171-172; 1889, 171-172; 1890, 171-172; 1891, 171-172; 1892, 171-172; 1893, 171-172; 1894, 171-172; 1895, 171-172; 1896, 171-172; 1897, 171-172; 1898, 171-172; 1899, 171-172; 1900, 171-172; 1901, 171-172; 1902, 171-172; 1903, 171-172; 1904, 171-172; 1905, 171-172; 1906, 171-172; 1907, 171-172; 1908, 171-172; 1909, 171-172; 1910, 171-172; 1911, 171-172; 1912, 171-172; 1913, 171-172; 1914, 171-172; 1915, 171-172; 1916, 171-172; 1917, 171-172; 1918, 171-172; 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